THE INDEPENDENT

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TODAY'S NEWS

Has Tory policy on schooling worked?

New types of schools promoted by the last government feature prominently in a list of the most-improved schools published yesterday. Conservatives said their policies had been vindicated.

just 240 schools out of more than 5,000 in this year's league tables have improved every year for the past four years. One in three is grant-maintained, including the London Oratory, where the Prime Minister sends his children, and four of the 20 most improved are city technology col-

City technology colleges and the 667 grant-maintained schools have been more generously financed than other schools. The colleges usually test and interview applicants to ensure they admit the full range of ability, and some non-selective grant-maintained schools interview prospective pupils. Under Labour, both will lose some of their independence over admissions and will be funded in the same way as other schools. Stephen Dorrell, shadow education secretary, said: "I warmly welcome the fact that Labour have adopted the important Conservative policy of publishing league tables. Why does Mr Blunkett [David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education) insist on destroying the grant-maintained system when the evidence points so unambiguously to its success?" Government sources denied the list was embarrassing: "There is a good cross-section of schools of all categories ... Of course a representative proportion will be grant-maintained."

Teachers, who criticise the tables for giving only raw scores and not taking into account schools' intake, questioned whether the new improvement index was a true reflection of performance. Mr Blunkett defended the indexc he believes it gives parents a fairer picture of their children's schools. He promised that new "value-added tables" comparing a school's intake with its exam performance would be piloted from next year.

However, the tables reveal how difficult it is for schools to maintain that improvement: 416 had better results in both 1995 and 1996, only to see them drop again this year.

The top local authority at GCSE, for the second year running, is the Isles of Scilly, with one school where 61.6 per cent of pupils are getting good grades. The bottom is Hull, which displaces last year's worst authority, Islington, London. Hull also has the highest truancy rate.

The best-performing school at A-level was fee-paying King Edward's School, Birmingham, where pupils scored an average of between three and four As per candidate. The best state comprehensive at A-level was Lady Manners' School, Bakewell, Derbyshire, where pupils scored an average of nearly three A grades each.

Why cancer campaigns help kill smokers

Britain has one of the worst survival rates from lung cancer in the west - partly because smokers feel so guilty. Anti-smoking campaigns are making them delay seeking medical treatment out of embarrassment, according to a study. Indeed, negative attitudes dominate the treatment of the disease, which kills 100 people a day in Britain. Smokers feel guilty about having brought the problem on themselves; doctors feel there is no hope; and there is little public interest in a disease that principally kills the old and the poor. Page 4

Chaplin film revealed

A revealing documentary film about Charlie Chaplin, hidden for a lifetime and never shown, has come to light in a garage. He probably kept the film out of the public eye because it stressed his working class origins - produced in 1928, it provides a rare account of Chaplin's childhood in south London and suggests that his halfmark boots and crousers were inspired by the everyday clothes he saw worn in Lambeth. Page 4

World's best advert?

The advert for Blackcurrant Tango which features a hysterical, xenophobic spokesman running around in purple boxer shorts is the best TV advertisement in the world. That's the verdict, anyway, of the London International Advertising Awards, where it beat off 7,000 entries from 78 countries. Page 3

Barbie gets boob job

The figure that Barbie, that doll amongst dolls, has managed to maintain for almost four decades is not, it seems, altogether realistic. Mattel, the toy company that created Barbie in 1959, have decided that the illusion is unsustainable and are to reduce the size of her breasts. Column One, Page 2



TELEVISION The Eye, page 12 CROSSWORDS Page 32 and the Eye, page 9 WEATHER The Eye, page 10

Web address: http://www.

Terror at the feet of an Egyptian Queen



Security men carry away the body of one of the attackers after the massacre

At least 60 people, including two Britons as well as Swiss, French, Japanese and Spanish tourists, were shot dead by gunmen in front of an ancient temple at Luxor in upper Egypt yesterday in the bloodiest incident of the country's five-year Islamist rebellion.

Robert Fisk says the killers have destroyed one of Egypt's biggest earners - foreign tourism - for perhaps years to come.

In Egypt yesterday, they went for the jugular. What else does the massacre at Luxor -where as many as 63 tourists were slaughtered and another 17 wounded - mean but a declaration of war against the Egyptian government, an attack that strikes at the very

heart of the billion-dollar tourist industry? The six gunmen who turned the courtyard of the 3,400-year-old temple of Queen Hatshepsut into a bloodbath, mowing down the European and Japanese tourists after they had climbed from their bus, were almost certainly members of the Gema'a Islamiya (Islamic group) who have been waging an armed conflict with the government since 1992, claiming President Hosni

Mubarak's regime is corrupt and un-Islamic. Most of the tourists had just descended from their bas 500m from the imposing, recently restored colonnaded temple that stands beneath towering cliffs on the west bank of the Nile when six gummen - all dressed in black - ran towards them, firing

er, falling over each other in their panic. The gunmen tried to hijack another bus police after being pursued into the desert. to escape and further casualties followed the police. One eyewitness said panicking year uprising. The government in Cairo has

TOURISTS FLEE

Thomson, Britain's biggest holiday company, which has 1,300 clients in Egypt, said it was cancelling Egypt-bound flights tomorrow and would fly home any clients who wish to return early. Saga Holidays, which specialises in holidays for pensioners, said it was bringing its clients home and cancelling flights. Thomas Cook, which has 270 people on holiday in Egypt, also offered to fly peo-

The Foreign Office, which until yesterday was advising travellers to be "vigilant", expressed shock and regret at the attack, but issued no new advice.

A Swedish travel company cancelled all trips to Egypt and said it would bring home all customers on holiday there. Fritidsresor has about 1,000 people on

holiday in Egypt. Jihan Salah, a spokesman for an Egyptian travel company, said yesterday: "The image for the long run is really bleak." But Egypt's tourism minister, Mamdouh el-Beltagi, insisted: "Egypt is no less safe than any destination including the United Kingdom, Europe, the

automatic weapons. Screaming in pain and civilians were killed and another nine fear, many of the foreigners tried to take cov- wounded. Egyptian state television last night claimed all six killers had been shot by the

It was a massacre on an Algerian scale, during a gun battle between the killers and the most ferocious since the start of the fivesecurity police themselves shot dead three repeatedly guaranteed that Egypt - despite French tourists. At least two Egyptian a fire-bomb attack on a bus load of German tourists in September that left nine dead was safe for foreign visitors. Now the gun-

men at Luxor have turned their words to dust. Almost as shocking for President Mubarak is that the gunmen should have attacked at Luxor, which has a considerable Christian population and appeared an oasis of security amid the conflict in upper

Egypt. Last night, Luxor was under curfew. Even after September's attack, important questions remained unanswered: the government claimed there were only two attackers, while eye-witnesses saw up to six. The gun-battle between police and gunmen in Luxor reportedly lasted three hours. Why did it take armed police so long to over-

The six were thought to have dressed in black clothes to look like members of Egypt's black-uniformed security police. Last night, lying in make-shift mortuaries, many of the dead remained unidentified: they had surrendered their passports before their visit to the Valley of the Queens. Other victims lay where they fell and were still there at nightfall - which means the death toll could rise to as high as 90.

Last month, imprisoned members of the Gema'a Islamiya were calling upon their brothers for a ceasefire and an end to the killing of foreigners. The Egyptian government contemptuously turned the offer down.

INSIDE TODAY

A world ruled by women

10/YOUNG BRITAIN

At last, a computer game that taxes your brainby Douglas **Adams NETWORK+**

School League Tables 1997: 12-page special supplement INSIDE



Chicago: Nigel Flanei goes to jail THEEYE



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Mobile phone drivers put their foot in it

United States and everywhere."

started to develop a new motoring technique - driving at 70mph without use of their hands while making complex business

The decision to abandon traditional driving methods in favour of the legs and knees variety has prompted the police in the West Midlands to launch a crackdown on motorway drivers with dangerous mobile phone habits.

Examples of reckless driving captured by the police include a salesman who had his phone in one hand and an order book in another. Asked how he managed to control his vehicle, he replied: "I have developed the technique of driving with my

Another man talking on his mobile on

Drivers who use phones in the car have the motorway was having difficulty hear-arranging her seven children's lives by ing so used his spare hand to cover his ear, phone. leaving the front seat passenger to steet.

A lorry driver trundling along the motorway was filmed steering a 40-tonne truck with his left foot. His right leg was resting on the dashboard while his hands were concentrating on dialling.

Acting Superintendent Paul Austen, who is heading the clampdown for the West Midland Police, said: "The worst cases are often where the driver turns the car into an office. They have their papers spread out, their order book open, and they make deals on the phone. Watching where they are going seems a low priority."

He also tells of the case of a woman who was caught twice driving dangerously be- in jail plus a fine. cause she spent most of her time in the car

Supt Austen insists if any motorist is going to have a conversation they should pull over and stop the car. Police motorway patrols, some fitted with video cameras, are being used in the West Midlands to target

Earlier this month, the Government threatened to introduce tough new laws if motorists failed to stop using mobile telephones at the wheel.

The police currently have the power to charge motorists whose driving was affected by using a telephone, under existing offences such as careless or dangerous driving. Lawbreakers can face up to two years

— lason Benetto

COLUMN ONE

Barbie starts to sag as middle age looms

There was shocking news yesterday for boys and girls alike: the fabulous legs-to-armpits figure that Barbie, that doll amongst dolls, has managed to maintain for almost four decades is not, well, altogether realistic. If you have been scouring every bar on earth for a perfect look-alike or, listen up ladies, if you have been aspiring to attain those dynamite measurements for yourself, you can give up right now. It ain't going to happen.

The folk at Mattel, the toy company that first gave us Barbie in 1959, have decided that the illusion is no longer sustainable. Were she a real gal, Barbie would come in at 38-18-34. But not for much longer.

It is true. Barbic is to become anatomically - even politically - correct. Starting next year. America's icon of impossible beauty is going to be given a little plastic surgery and it will not be a question of pinch and lift. Rather, Barbie is actually going to be allowed to sag a little.



The new Barbie body will only be revealed at the annual New York toy show next January. Cellulite dimples may not be on the surgeon's mission list but this we know: her waist will fill out, while her hips and, most stunningly, her jutting bosom will undergo some judicious

There will be a new Barbie face too. In fact, it will be face Mark IV. The current visage - all grin and sparkly blue eyes - is version number three, introduced in 1977. From next year, she will be altogether less superstar and more natural-looking with closed mouth and straight bair.

The implications of the makeover are, of course, grave. Barbie owners the world over will be forced to open their piggy banks and invest in the new model of their heroine. (Already Barbie dolls sell as the rate of two a second). Then there will be the new

wardrobe to buy. Mattel is not stupid. And what of the legions of radical feminists who have made careers out of lambasting Barbie for presenting to

little girls an impossible image and sending whole generations headlong into lives of eating disorders and depression? Mattel, by the way, says such sniping had nothing to do with the re-

vamp. Said one company spokesman: "We've always been sensitive to that issue, but it wasn't the basis for our decision". Instead, apparently, it's all about giving Barbie a "contemporary look that's more natural and today". No one in the meantime seems to be worrying about whether Barbie's

long-time friend Ken (can it still be platonic?) might also need a more "today" look. Men's Firness magazine recently reported that translating his manty physique into human dimensions, keeping everything more or less in proportion, would make him 7ft 8in tall.

- Ďavid Usborne

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PEOPLE



Quentin Tarantino in \$5m assault claim

Only in Hollywood could getting smacked in the case Mr Murphy alleges the attack took place at the mouth make you \$5m. Quentin Tarantino (pictured above with wife, Gretchen), hotshot director of Pulp Fiction and Reservoir Dogs is being sued for \$5m (£3m) by Don Murphy, the associate producer of the Tarantino-scripted violencefest that was Natural Born Killers.

In real life, Mr Murphy is obviously less enamoured of violence than his movies would make you think. According to documents lodged in the Superior-Court in California, the delicate Mr Murphy needs the \$5m because he has been unable to work since being slammed against a wall by Tarantino last month and then punched in the head and face. Mr Murphy claims it is the pain from the attack that has kept

While the characters in Mr Murphy and Tarantino's films usually perpetrate their violence in unpleasant cellars and run down warehouses, in this

trendy West Hollywood restaurant, AGO.

The law suit is ironic in that during filming of Natural Born Killers, the female star, Juliette Lewis, broke the nose of actor Tom Sizemore when she slammed him too enthusiastically into a wall. It is not known if Sizemore was able to claim \$5m for a month off work. Natural Born Killers recounted the story of Mickey and Mallory, serial killers and lovers who travelled along America's Route 666 conducting stylised mass-slaughter just for the hell of it.

It is yet to be revealed what the source of the enmity between Tarantino and Mr Murphy is, but Tarantino was so appalled by the changes made to his script for director Oliver Stone, that he has disowned the film. In contrast to Mr Murphy's squeamishness, Natural Born Killers needed 150 shots to be cut before it could get a R rating in the US.

Europhile defects from Tories to Lib-Dems

to the Liberal Democrats yester- European Union as it is present-

Tory scalp in Paddy Ashdown's critical and sceptical. riod of Margaret Thatcher's period in office.

record as a basher of the Euro- of this country in the great European Community, Lord Thomas pean adventure begun in the

One of the Conservative Party's said pesterday that he had 1950s, and have regretted our original Thatcherites, Lord switched parties because Contardy responses to our neighbor Thomas of Swynnerton, defected servative anitudes towards the bours initiatives. ly constituted, and as it is likely to had become ill at ease in a party

n of the right- "Ironically, I resign wing Centre for Policy Studies the Labour Party in 1974 partly befrom 1979-1990 - the entire pe- cause of its attitude to Europe, and joined the Conservatives, since they were then the party of Eu-But in spite of Baroness rope. I have all my life support- books about the Spanish civil Thatcher's remarkable track ed the idea of the full participation war, Suez, and the Cuban

Lord Thomas added that he

As Hugh Thomas, the latest develop, have become ever more that had become so hostile on the critical issue of the European single currency. A historian by profession, and currently visiting professor at the University of Boston, Lord

Thomas, 66, is the author of

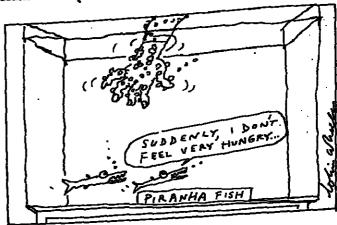
- Anthony Bevins.

UPDATE

Something nasty in the fish tank

Keeping tropical fish has traditionally been regarded as the safe and easy option for pet-lovers. But yesterday doctors warned of a hitherto unforseen danger facing fish enthusiasts: fish tank granuloma.

Five cases of this potentially serious skin infection, caused by aquatic bacteria, have been reported recently by doctors at the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton. Each of the afflicted patients kept tropical fish. and had immersed an unprotected hand in the tank waters of their pets. There was already a cut or abrasion on each person's hand, and the Mycobacterium marinum present in the water led to an infection of the area.



HEALTH

Nutty way to a longer life

Eating nuts five or more times a week may help you live a longer, healthier life, scientists said yesterday. A study of 11,000 vegetarians, semi-vegetarians and health-conscious meat eaters in the UK revealed a 23 per cent lower than average death rate from all causes among people who ate lots of nuts. "Nuts are good sources of vitamin E, other antioxidant nutrients, and linoleic acid," the researchers reported in the journal Heart. Vegetarianism was associated with a slight, but not significant, reduction in death rate, and the group as a whole suffered half as much heart disease as the UK population as a whole.

SOCIETY

Product links helping selected few

Cause-related marketing, where a company builds a relationship with good causes for their mutual benefit, has been a success, but charities fear that less fashionable causes may be missing out. Business in the Community, a charity which promotes links between firms and community organisations, said that its study, the Game Plan, showed that 80 per cent of customers want to buy goods linked to a cause, such as Andrex toilet paper and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

But Jim Minton, marketing manager for the National Council for Voluntary Organisations warned: "The potential issue is that how much are companies thinking 'oh, these causes are the ones consumers want' - ones with children and animals, whereas the less fashionable causes will find it more difficult and may well miss out again."

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| Belgium (francs) | 58.67 | Malta (lira) | 0.63 |
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| Cyprus (pounds) | 0.83 | Norway (kroner) | 11.67 |
| Denmark (kroner) | 10.88 | Portugal (escudos) | 288. 1 0 |
| France (francs) | 9.51 | Spain (pesetas) | 238.85 |
| Germany (marks) | 2.85 | Sweden (kroner) | 12.43 |
| Greece (drachmei) | 449.33 | Switzerland (francs) | 2.32 |
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Police say killing of Devon teenager was planned

A 14-year-old girl who was found murdered at the weekend in Devon had her throat slit, it was disclosed yesterday. Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent, reports on the hunt for a killer.

The attack on Kate Bushell as she walked a dog near her home on a country path was planned, police said yesterday. Her killer cut the girl's throat, almost certainly with a knife, and used great control and ferocity. She did not appear to have been raped, but detectives carried out tests to Kate Bushell: Died doing a good turn establish whether her attacker tried to assault her sexually.

found by her father on Saturday evening in a field 300 yards from her family's home added. on a housing estate at Exwick, on the outskirts of Exeter, after she failed to return cut with a sharp instrument which has yet to be recovered.

tack which ripped the girl's throat. It was a premeditated attack by a killer who had

elected few



The teenager's fully clothed body was control of themselves and the victim," he said. The killer could strike again, he

Samples of blood had been sent for analysis and police have contacted a crimfrom a walk. Detective Superintendent inal psychologist to help draw up a profile Mike Stephens said that Kate's throat was of the likely suspect. Kate, described as a caring, bright, music-loving youngster, was attacked while taking her neighbour's dog, "It was obviously a mindless, ruthless at- a Jack Russell called Gemma, for a short walk along a path near Exwick Lane.

When she failed to return by 6.45pm, her

father, Jeremy, and mother Susan, began a search by car, then called the police when there was no sign of her.

Kate was found at 7.35pm by her father in the corner of a field which she had reached by climbing over a stile from Exwick Lane. The body was lying near a country path and was not concealed. Detectives believe Kate was murdered at the

Some of her clothing was disturbed, indicating a possible sexual motive. Police estimate that about 100 people use the walkway each day.

Yesterday more than 100 officers continued the murder hunt and carried out house inquires. The police appealed to householders to check their dustbins to see if anything had been thrown into them and asked them to look out for knives or bloodstained clothing. The dog involved has been examined forensically to see whether there were any DNA samples from the killer, but results are not expected for a few days.

There have been a number of reports about individuals spotted in the area at the time of the murder, but there are no positive leads.

Pupils at Kate's school have suggested establishing a memorial to her.

Purple passion puts Tango on top of the advertising world

The advert for Blackcurrant Tango has won nearly every advertising award in Britain, Last night it won the world's highest advertising accolade.

Poul McCann, Media Correspondent, asks if advertising can be so good that it becomes

It's official. The Blackcurrant Tango television advert featuring a hysterical, xenophobic Tango spokesman running around in purple boxer shorts is the best advert in the world.

The advert, which first ran on British television last year, was the grand prize winner in the London International Advertising Awards last night. It beat 7,000 entries from 78 countries to win the coveted grand prize at a black-tie award ceremony.

The advert had already won its agency, HHCL. Partners, the British Creative Circle awards and Design and Art Director awards earlier this year. It has also appeared on countless industry "advert of the year" lists.

The commercial was also one of the top ten most complained about adverts of last year. In all 68 people protested to the Independent Television Commission that it was insulting and xenophobic.

The advert featured mildnannered Tango spokesman Roy Gardner reading out a letter from a French schoolboy who complains that he doesn't like blackcurrant. Prompted by this and a Tango scientist, Roy marches through his office getting angrier and

angrier until he is outside, stripping down to a pair of blackcurrant-coloured

The Tango spokesman then marches to a field supported by 400 cheering extras where a boxing ring is set up. Here he challenges the boy and the whole of France to a fight. As the camera pans back and the music swells the boxing ring is seen perched above the White Cliffs of Dover

The ITC dismissed the complaints on the grounds that the humour of the commercial was in the same tradition of xenophobic British humour as Alf Garnett or Basil Fawlty.

The £500,000 advert received plaudits from outside the advertising industry when the Institute of Contemporary Arts included it in an exhibition this year to illustrate how art could come from commercial sources.

Kate Bush, curator of the ICA's Assuming Positions exhibition said the advert was used because it was technically brilliant as well as self-knowing: "It starts off dull and builds to a wonderful cinematic climax. You could read it as real laddishness and rep xenophobia, but at the same time you known it knows all that about itself and is a parody. This helps it transcend being an advert

and becomes art." Mike Cozens, creative director of rival agency Young & Rubicam, said: "It's been a great hit with punters as well as with advertising juries, which doesn't always follow. It's good to see such a mainstream brand like this winning awards for its advertising; it's often more obscure brands that win, which is sometimes questionable."

Runaway, 13, thought to be in Britain

The mother of a 13-year-old girl believed to have run away with a 47-year-old man she met in Spain has spoken for the first time about the affair. As Kothy Marks appeal for her daughter to contact her.

Sally Claydon, 13, is thought to have gone missing with Bruce Alborough-Tregear, a British man whom she got to know while helping out in a bar run by her mother in Sally Claydon: Met man in Spain the Spanish beach resort of Fuengirola.

Her friends have told police that she spoke to him twice on the telephone after second occasion was last Friday, the day before she disappeared.

Yesterday her mother, Sharon Walsh, 32, appealed at a police press conference in Harlow, Essex, for Sally, her only child, to get in touch. "No matter what she has done, dothes and passport, police believe she is still I will always love her," she said. "I want to in Britain. She disappeared from her home



know anything, even just to know she is alive. returning from Spain two weeks ago. The If she wants to go elsewhere or anything, as long as I know she's just out there. I just really, really want her to phone me or get someone else to phone me. She can come home and we can sort it all out."

Although Sally left with her summer

in Harlow while her mother, who is divorced from Sally's father, was out with her boyfriend. Mark McIntyre. Police have a note apparently written by the girl and handed to them by Ms Walsh. In it, she says she hates her mother and Mr McIntyre, but makes no mention of Mr Alborough-Tregea

Police said they were also following a second line of enquiry based on suggestions that Sally could be with a different man who is nearer her own age. Mr McIntyre, 43, told the press con-

ference that he and Ms Walsh had not been aware of anything untoward between Sally and the older man. Mr Alborough-Tregear, who is believed

to use other names, had told the family he was divorced with grown-up children and had connections in the Wiltshire area. They met him again by chance on the ferry home.

Detective Inspector Graham Hancock said police wanted him to contact them, if only to say that he was not with Sally. "We are anxious to eliminate Bruce from our enquiries," he said. Interpol has been informed of the girl's disappearance and ports



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Britain has one of the worst survival rates from lung cancer in the West. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, finds the reasons are medical pessimism and smokers' guilt.

Anti-smoking campaigns are adding to the suffering of smokers by making them delay seeking medical treatment out of embarrassment, according to a

study. Negative attitudes dominate the treatment of lung cancer in Britain which kills more people than any other cancer. Smokers feel guilty about having brought the problem on themselves. doctors feel there is no hope and there is little public interest in a disease that principally kills the old and the poor.

Launching a campaign to raise awareness of the disease by the Macmillan Cancer Relief charity, Dr Robert Milroy, consaid lung cancer was the most virulent of all cancers causing 100 deaths a day in Britain. Eight out of ten newly diagnosed sufferers, of which there are 40,000 a year, die within 12 months. Only one in ten survives

five years. Dr Milroy said the "clear impression" from international figures on lung cancer survival was that Britain came out near the bottom of the European league. Operation rates to re- aim to tackle the negative attimove the cancer were also among the lowest in Britain.

"If we could improve diagnosis we could improve surgery rates and extend survival. There has to be a change in attitude. For too long it has been regarded as an unfortunate disease of the poor and old which they have brought on themselves. Negative attitudes - that neglected."

nothing can be done - pervades attitudes to the disease. We need to get away from that."

Unlike other cancers there had never been a powerful patient lobby for lung cancer victims because of their poor survival. They died too soon and the disease was consequently neglected.

A survey by Macmillan Cancer Relief found that almost a third of lung cancer patients had delayed going to the doctor for up to four months despite having symptoms including coughing up blood, loss of weight and chest pains.

Only a quarter were referred by GPs to a specialist within a week, as the guidelines on treatment dictate, and some waited more than a month for the diagnosis. More than half complained they had bad inadequate care from the NHS.

The campaign was launched as the Government announced the cost of smoking to the NHS was between £1.4bn and £1.7 bn sultant respiratory physician, a year - more than twice previous estimates.

Tessa Jowell, the public health minister, said: "This is an appalling drain on the NHS and an enormous human cost to

"We need tough action at both a domestic and European level to bring down rates of

Nicholas Young, chief executive of Macmillan Cancer Relief, said the campaign would tude to the disease which he described as the "forgotten

"High-profile anti-smoking campaigns engender guilt in lung cancer sufferers who become stoical and undemanding about their care. They are the largest group of cancer patients in the world and they are





Out of London: Charlie Chaplin, left, suppressed the film about his life, which focused on his humble origins south of the river. He was played by Chick Wango, above, who is seen in the comic's childhood haunts Photograph (left): MSI

Found: film Chaplin didn't find funny

A documentary film about Charlie Chaplin has come to light after 70 years. David Lister suggests that Chaplin kept the film out of the public eye because it stressed his working-class origins.

A warts-and-all documentary film about Charlie Chaplin, suppressed by him and never shown, has been found in

The 35mm silent film, created and produced in 1928 by Harry B. Parkinson, one of the pioneers of the film industry, provides a rare account of the comic's working-class childhood in south London, as well as some of the people and places that influenced him.

Most notably, the film suggests that Chaplin's hallmark boots and trousers were inspired by the everyday clothes he saw worn at East Lane Market in Lambeth as a child.

Chaplin, who had moved to Hollywood by the time the film was made, stopped it from being shown. It is likely he would

much about his poor origins. In addition, he probably did not enjoy the idea of someone playing him. The film uses a figure, largely shown in shadow, played by the actor Chick Wango, pretending to be Chaplin visiting his old haunts.

The family of the late Harry Parkinson are selling the film at Christie's next month, after a family member found it on top of a cupboard in her garage.

During the 42-minute film, entitled The Life Story Of Charlie Chaplin, Parkinson draws comparisons between Chaplin's Beverly Hills home and the London streets where he grew up. Parkinson suggests that East Street, Walworth, south London, could have been the inspiration for Chaplin's film Easy Street. Background details of Chaplin's family are given, particularly his father's career as a music hall singer. There is footage of some of the local schools that Charlie Chaplin

Images of London include his old lodgings in Pownall Terrace, Lambeth, Lambeth Baths and Kennington Park Gymnasium, Scenes of children playing

have been annoyed that it revealed so in the Lambeth streets are used by Parkinson to imply that Chaplin used the experience of his childhood in his characterisation of The Tramp.

There is approximately half a minute of newsreel footage of Chaplin's triumphant return to England in 1921; that is followed by footage of a garret room in Lambeth. Parkinson used the stark contrast between Chaplin's early lodgings and the splendour of his suite of rooms at The Ritz, where he stayed on his visit to London, to emphasise the change in Chaplin's

Chaplin died in 1977 aged 88, two years after being knighted. Parkinson died in 1970, aged 86. His elderly relative who found the film, who does not wish to be named, said: "We always thought Chaplin had it banned because he was embarrassed about his poor background. When I was given the film I remember being told it would be worth a lot of money one day. But I forgot all about it ... I didn't know what to expect, but it was wonderful to see it, with bits from his childhood together with clips from newsreel and bits from

EUROPE: A FORCE FOR FAIRNESS, EQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN

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The Treaty of Rome, which Britain signed when we joined the European Union, established women's rights to:

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The more that British women are aware of the advantages of EU membership, the more they will be able to benefit from them. We applaud the efforts of the current Europe 97 campaign to make this information

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Affair in Bosnia led to wife's Constable murder, court told

A senior RAF officer went on trial yesterday accused of murdering his wife. Kim Sengupta was in court as a jury was told an illicit affair in wartorn Bosnia led to the killing at a Suffolk lake.

RAF Squadron Leader Nicholas Tucker murdered his wife in a staged car accident after having an affair with a young Serbian translator he had met in Bosnia while serv-Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Tucker, a 44-year-old father of two teenage children, was "infatuated" with 21-yearold Dijana Dudakovic who was described as "very slim, very attractive with curly blonde hair". The prosecution claimed that it was this relationship which lay

Danes buy

Glenfeshie

Conservationists have lost out

to a Danish family-owned com-

pany in their bid for the High-

land Glenfeshie estate, it was

A multi-agency public bid was beaten by Danstrup Lund

Holding A/S, owned by Klaus

Helmersen, who is believed to

have paid around £6m. The

sale has angered conservation-

ists who were hoping to save the

42,000-acre estate from poten-

tial harm because it is home to

thousands of ancient trees. They

claim its management is crucial

to the success of maintaining the

Cairngorms in order to achieve

Scottish officer Dave Morris

said: "It is a scandal that the

Glenfeshie land lottery continues

... Why should Scotland allow

the heart of the Cairngorms to

be placed at the mercy of anyone

with a big enough cheque book

to outbid the public purse?"

The Ramblers' Association

World Heritage Status.

revealed yesterday.

behind the killing of 52-year-old with recent finger pressure", Carol Tucker.

After meeting Ms Dudakovic, the RAF squadron of duty in Bosnia, the court heard. He stayed with her at the RAF club in Piccadilly, London, after helping her to come to this country on a short visit, and then killed his wife by driving a car into the River Lark in Suffolk, the jury was told.

Following the incident, Squadron Leader Tucker maintained the car had swerved into the water when his wife grabbed the steering wheel to avoid hiting as a UN observer, Norwich ting a herd of deer. He was rescued with minor grazing to the forchead, while Mrs Tucker's body was discovered face down under a bridge, where police of-

> ficers failed to resuscitate her. A Home Office pathologist, David Harrison, concluded that Mrs Tucker had bruising on the left side of her chest "consistent

But for Lust

But for lust we could be friends,

In each other's arms could sleep

In the calm the cradle lends:

Lends awhile, and takes away.

But for hunger, but for fear,

From the yellow to the grey:

From the gold to the grey hair,

But for passion could we rest,

But for passion we could feast

On compassion everywhere,

Even in this night I know

By the awful living dead,

By this craving tear I shed,

abeth Jennings (£10,95).

Somewhere, somewhere it is so.

Calm could be our day and year

On each other's necks could weep:

by Ruth Pitter

grasp marks on her upper arm. and abrasions under her left leader applied to extend his tour her neck, but the prosecution claimed that suffocation could have been caused "with a ligature like an armlock or

> "fingers, not dug in". The fatal crash took place on the evening of 21 July, 1995, after Mr and Mrs Tucker had been out for dinner at the Red Lion, near Honington, Suffolk. After leaving the pub, Mr Tuckbefore being forced to drive into the river. He told detectives that he was driving at around 50mph at the time of the accident. But police calculations show that the car had been travelling at less than 31mph and it had slowed

river bed. Mr Tucker, of Honington, Suffolk, denies murder. The case continues,

DAILY POEM

Ruth Pitter was born in Ilford on 7 November 1897 and died

in 1992. In the course of a long writing career she won the

Hawthornden Prize, the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry, and

was made a CBE. To mark her centenary, Enitharmon Press

have issued Ruth Pitter's Collected Poems, introduced by Eliz-

arm. There were no marks on A police constable was convicted yesterday of assaulting a student at a festival for the homeless. Paul Evans, 32, from Stoke Newington police station in London, was also convicted by a jury at the Old Bailey of

same station were all cleared of various charges relating to an alleged "brutal attack" they faced er claimed he missed a turning after the music festival for Hackney's homeless in north London in May 1994.

trouble allegedly erupted on the Saturday night. The defence claims that officers were called pigs and bastards and bottles to around 10mph when it hit the thrown at them. Michael Austin-Smith QC, for Evans. said the officer "lost his cool" in the heat of the moment. He said the police had faced a "riutous situation. It was chaos".

The prosecution had alleged that Evans and other officers all from Stoke Newington police station had been involved in an unprovoked attack on festival goers and then tried to cover up their crime.

Evans, who will be sentenced today, was found guilty of assaulting Ben Swarbrick after the jury took seven days deliberating for nearly 37 hours - to reach their verdicts.

Six other officers from Stoke Newington were all cleared of various charges they faced after the festival. Evans was also cleared of other charges of alleged assault and false imprisonment. All seven officers were cleared of plotting to pervert the course of justice by writing false accounts of what had occurred.

Evans will almost certainly be thrown out of the Metropolitan Police following his conviction, and lose his pension. The acquitted officers will remain suspended until it is decided whether there are any outstanding disciplinary matters against them.

> — Jason Bennetto — Crime Correspondent

Six other officers from the Police were called in after

chools

5/EDUCATION

Schools that have beat the system to make their mark

HOW THE BEST AND WORST COMPARE

Top 10 schools with the greatest sustained improvement (based on GSCE results between 1994-7 and including only schools which have improved each year. Excludes schools which entered fewer than 30 pupils.)

% point increase in

Proportion of pupils

| | • | GCSE score 1994 | between and 1997 |
|-----|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| | Harris City Technology College, Croydon | | 37% |
| | Archbishop Temple School, Lancashire | | 35% |
| | Bowland County High School, Lancashire | | 32% |
| | Morpeth School, Tower Hamlets | | 29% |
| | Bacon's College, Southwark | | 29% |
| | Northampton (GM) School for Boys, North | nants | 28% |
| | Chadwell Heath School, Redbridge | | 27% |
| - 1 | Ibstock Place, Wandsworth | | 27% |
| - | Lordswood Girls' School, Birmingham | | 26% |
| | Billiana - Class Class Cat. 1 Ct. | | 2424 |

Top 10 non-selective state schools at GCSE

School

| | at grade A*-C |
|---|---------------|
| Old Swinford Hospital, Stourbridge | 98% |
| Watford Grammar School for Girls | 93% |
| The Coopers' Company and | |
| Coborn School, Upminster | 92% |
| The Hertfordshire and Essex High School, | |
| Bishop's Stortford | 90% |
| Watford Grammar School for Boys | 89% |
| Emmanuel City Technology College, Gateshead | 89% |
| Coloma Convent Girls' School, Croydon | 89% |
| St Albans Girls' School, St Albans | 88% |
| Sexey's School, Bruton | 88% |
| Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Penrith | 87% |

Bottom 10 non-selective state schools at GCSE

| | School Proportion of pu at least five GCSEs at g | ortion of pupils gaining e GCSEs at grade A*-C | | |
|-------|---|---|--|--|
| | The Ramsgate School, Kent | . 1% | | |
| | William Crane Comprehensive School, Nottingham | . 2% | | |
| - 14 | Campion Boys RC Comprehensive School, Liverpool | 2% | | |
| | High View School and Technology Centre, Derby | 2% | | |
| A 4 | Our Lady of Fatima High School, Liverpool | . 2% | | |
| , 17 | Copperfields College, Leeds | 3% | | |
| 1 | Handsworth Wood Boys' Birmingham | 3% | | |

Source of data: Department for Education and Employment

Amy Johnson School, Hull

Pen Park School, Bristol

Skerton High School, Lancaster

Educationists opposed to school league tables based on raw exam scores have hailed a league based on sustained improvement as a step in the right direction. But, ask Lucy Ward and Judith Judd, can the schools in the new table really be fairly compared?

The heads of two very different schools at the top of the new improvement league have one response in common to their sudden dose of public acclaim.

Both Lyndon Jones, principal of Harris City Technology College in Croydon, and Alasdair Macdonald, headteacher of Morpeth School, in east London, believe the table has provided well-deserved recognition for schools which have no chance of scaling the heights of the raw scores premier league, occupied by some of the country's most selective institutions.

However, while the two schools may both be making impressive headway, critics of the previous government's education policy claim they were never on the same starting line.

Harris, founded in 1990, is one of 14 CTCs - the businesssponsored brainchild of theneducation secretary Kenneth Baker. With £1.25m over five years from its benefactor, the carpet king Lord Harris, the college was able to equip itself with 350 computers, a fibre optics of pupils gained at least five network and – naturally – new carpeting for the former local education authority-run school whose buildings it took over.

Morpeth is housed mainly in 100-year-old red brick Victorian buildings in Bethnal Green. On its present roll, 70 per cent of pupils qualify for free school meals - three times the proport on at Harris CTC - while for some 60 per cent English is a second language.

for Harris CTC, Lyndon Joses points out, the sustained improvement which has seen



Top marks: Year 7 pupils at the Harris CTC in Croydon, south London, the country's most improved school

Photograph: Philip Meech

Government's new league extends even further back than the chosen start date of 1994. In its first year, fewer than 12 per cent good GCSEs, while this year 64 per cent achieved that target.

The principal attributes the improvement to teachers' hard work and dedication, combined with the influence of the business world. Lord Harris, the first chair of governors and still a board member, helped instill techniques borrowed from the boardroom including benchmarking and target-setting.

Mr Jones, like other CTC principals, gives short shrift to suggestions that the college's selection policy could have influ-

the college leap to the top of the enced its impressive results iday revision courses helped record. Harris CTC selects a representative cross-section of and improved results followed. abilities, but after that it sticks to its motto - "All can achieve".

In Bethnal Green, meanwhile, Morpeth school can safely guarantee its long climb to league has been achieved with no change in intake. The 40 per cent of pupils who gained five or more good GCSEs this summer were from a year group with an even lower ability profile than normal for the school.

The secret of success, says versal of the "anti-boffin culture" which prevented brighter hard. Homework clubs and hol- ity of teaching."

instill an ethos of hard work,

The school may be a model in the Government's eyes but its head will not accept the New Labour view that poverty is no excuse for failure. "It is not an fourth in the improvement excuse but to say it has no impact is unfair and unjust," Mr Macdonald said.

Professor Peter Mortimore, director of London University's Institute of Education, agreed. "I have grave reservations about the use of crude league tables. Any exam table which doesn't Alasdair Macdonald, was a re-reflect the different backgrounds and abilities of pupils coming into the school can't repupils from being seen to work ally be used to judge the qualTop five comprehensives at A-level

Average A-level points score (for pupils taking two or more A-levels: A-grade scores 10 points and E scores two)

| Lady Manners School, Bakewell | 24.8% |
|---|-------|
| King Ecgbert School, Sheffleld | 24.6% |
| Alsager School, Stoke-on-Trent | 24.2% |
| The Coopers' Company and Coborn | |
| (GM) School, Upminster | 24.2% |
| Lady Lumley's School School, Pickering | 24.0% |
| Thomas Alleyne's High School, Uttoxeter | 24.0% |
| • | |

Top five independent schools at A-level

Average A-level points score (for pupils taking two or more A-levels: A-grade scores 10 points, E scores two)

| • | |
|---|-------|
| King Edward's School, Birmingham | 36.9% |
| Withington Girls' School, Manchester | 36.8% |
| King Edward VI High School for Girls | 35.8% |
| The Lady Eleanor Holles School, Hampton | 35.3% |
| St Swithun's School, Winchester | 34.7% |



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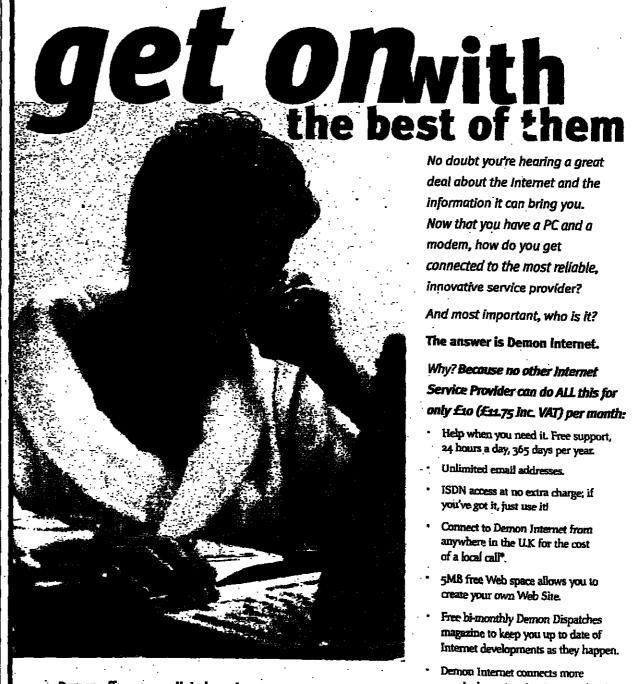
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No guarantees as Ulster pushes on the door of peace

Is the IRA falling apart? Will the Belfast political talks make headway? Our Ireland correspondent forecasts an eventful road ahead for the Northern ireland peace process.

One wise old political bird, asked recently if he thought the peace process would work, smiled and said: "We should know within ten years." He was, he explained, not being face-tious, but simply reflecting the fact that a return to violence will remain a possibility for many years to come.

The benign scenario for both the British and Irish governments is that the republican movement and the Ulster Unionist party remain intact and that, hopefully by next year, both may find it possible to subscribe to a new

This could open the door to a new era in which both sides would feel able to subscribe to agreed new institutions. Yet even such a historic breakthrough would not guarantee peace, for there will always be the potential

BY DAVID **MCKITTRICK**

for an unravelling of the process, beginning on either the republican or loyalist sides.

Still less are any guarantees available at the moment. No one can be sure that the republican movement will first of all stay in one surfing the agenda," as one delegate put it. piece, and then go on to accept a political settlement which will undoubtedly leave a border in Ireland.

Similarly no one can be confident that a deal palatable to republicans will also be acceptable to David Trimble's Ulster Unionists, subject as they are to constant flank attacks churlish and rude. from the eternally dissident and dissonant Rev

On the republican side, however, those loyal to Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams are - so far at least - successfully holding the line against their internal dissidents. In the past for a complete Unionist withdrawal from the few weeks they have lost up to a dozen Sinn talks. Fein members in Co Louth in the Irish Re-

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as a partitionist arrangement is a problem for the future. For the moment, however, the IRA and Sinn Fein are engaged in a propaganda battle with the five dissenters about the extent of divisions.

The dissenters are not doing well. They were resoundingly voted down at an important IRA meeting; they seem disorganised; and they lack a single charismatic leader. They have also gone public with their criticisms, which does not go down well within the republican omerta culture; and they have wildly exaggerated their support, with the result that any future claims from them will be received with great scepticism.

They also face a republican leadership which has for more than two decades shown consummate infighting and manoeuvring skills within republicanism. But perhaps most tellingly of all they have not voiced an alternative to the Adams strategy: a simple cry of "back to the war" would find few tak-

Observers at all points of the political compass are watching for signs of further republican fissures, which cannot be ruled out . But as of now the odds are stacked against

While all this has been going on outside the talks, precious little has been moving within Stormont. The two governments and most of the parties have been in the same building but there has been, by all accounts, little or no meeting of minds.

While the Ulster Unionists have often been in the same room as Sinn Fein, they resolutely refuse to have any direct contact or dealing with the republicans. For many weeks now the parties have been setting out their positions in a generalised way. "We've just been

Many of the other parties criticise the UIster Unionists for allegedly not taking the talks seriously enough. David Trimble rarely appears, they complain, UUP documents are so terse as to be almost contemptuous, and party representatives are said to be at times

Part of the explanation for this may lie in the fact that Unionism has already experienced the type of split which the republicans are now trying to cope with. Mr Paisley and an ally, Robert McCartney, are campaigning

Yesterday the process moved into a difpublic, as well as five of the 13 members of ferent and potentially crucial phase, which the IRA executive, which is a sort of adviso- may indicate whether genuine engagement ry board made up of distinguished IRA grey- and real horse-trading is possible within the present talks format. The next few weeks will There is a high degree of internal confi- see an intensive round of bilateral meetings this there are undercurrents of worry at about Mitchell, and the British government probe an arrangement which would leave the bor- for areas of possible flexibility and comproder intact and the British still in Ireland. Remise. This may help show whether Unionists publicans also grumble about what they and republicans will be looking over their characterise as lack of movement on issues shoulders at their critics, or whether relationships can be established to make move-



Strike-force: The Cambridge United footballer Matt Joseph with Tony Banks, the sports minister, at the launch yesterday of the 'Show Racism the

Labour wants funding inquiry to be widened

Sir Patrick Neill's inquiry into political funding should cover commercial. sponsorship of party events, Labour said last night, after MPs

complained of firms "trying to buy favours" without actually giving cash. Fran Abrams looks at the growing list of firms prepared to hand out canapés to politicians.

On the Sunday morning of Labour's annual conference, delegates were treated to a free breakfast at one of ufacturer provided the crois-

The Welfare-to-Work breakfast, paid for by British Aerospace, was just one of a growing number of party events with the mark of a commercial organi-

the gas-fired option.

from wallets containing conference agendas to stairs in the conference centre can attract

Paul Flynn, Labour MP for Newport West, complained about the phenomenon at a Parliamentary Labour Party meeting last week. He has called for a full review of links with pri-

"Granny Farms Incorporated and Crud Swallowers PLC have not suddenly been converted to the merits of fair pensions or the minimum wage," he said yesterday. "They are financing the Labour Party in order to buy favours from Government." Despite raising Brighton's Grand Hotel, Gor- the issue before, he had received don Brown provided the words little encouragement from par-

Flynn the party's finance di- was delighted to win a few rector, Paul Blagbrough, insisted that the sponsorship arrangements were based on advice from Sir Gordon Downey, Parliamentary Commissioner the link-up with British Aero-

"preferred access" to ministers and there was no need for a re-

Last night, though, the partv said it believed sponsorship should be included in Sir Patrick's inquiry. "We feel it's an area that will have to be looked at," a spokeswoman said, "We will make our contribution to the inquiry and await guidance from it when he concludes.'

At this year's conference, long-term sponsors were joined by newer names. The Co-operative Wholesale Society, a traditional backer, paid £14,000 for plastic document wallets with its name on and a leaflet inside about its activities. Granada Television, which visits all the In answer to a letter from Mr for North-west delegates and

warm words from Tony Blair. Other backers provoked more disquiet, though. Some delegates complained about

sation on them. Everything for Standards. They did not give space, which sells Hawk jets to soring a regional delegates' Indonesia. Last year there was similar comment after another arms manufacturer, Racai Electronics, bought space on each step of the conference centre

> British Gas bought a table at a fund-raising dinner last year and visits all the conferences, while Mirror Group Newspapers, part owner of The Independent, regularly pays for a disco at Labour's gathering. A drugs company, Novartis, recently paid for an induction con-

ference for new Labour MPs. Others that have paid for drinks and canapés include Eastern Group, an electricity company, and the North and Mid Cheshire Training and Enterprise Council. Chris Blythe. chief executive of the council. which spent £4,500 on spon- sponsorship.

event in Brighton, said he felt the money was well spent.

Last night the row over tobacco sponsorship of Formula One rumbled on as it was announced that the Public Health Minister, Tessa Jowell, would be called to explain the sport's exemption from a proposed ban . to a Commons committee on European legislation.

Representatives of darts and other sports affected by tobacco sponsorship are to meet the Prime Minister after a promise by Peter Mandelson to the Tories' industry spokesman, John Redwood, in a television interview on Sunday. Darts representatives say that like Formula One their sport holds global events in Britain and is entirely dependent on tobacco

Redwood takes up Thinking of arms for coal setting up your 1,000MW of electricity gener-

The beleaguered coal industry was yesterday championed by John Redwood, the Tory trade and industry spokesman. Anthony Bevins, Political Eritor, reports on an alleged dash for gas.

A suggestion that BP "jumped the queue" with its bid to open a gas-fired power station at Saltend, near Hull, was pursued in a series of Commons questions tabled by John Redwood

yesterday. The Conservative trade and industry spokesman's interest in BP's activities was sharpened by his summer campaign to get Lord Simon, former chairman of BP and now a trade and industry minister, to divest himself of his BP shareholding.

In Commons questions yesterday, he picked up a suggestion made by RJB Mining, the coal group, that BP had seemed to jump a queue of 27 applicants waiting to build power stations.

RJB objected to the BP proposal because coal-fired stations require about 3-4 million tons a year of coal for each

come the most aggressive member of William Hague's opposition team, also asked why Tony Blair was not meeting representatives of the mining unions and mining company managements - as he had met Formula One motor racing bosses. Citing tobacco sponsorship of

07000 Our number won't need to change again. Will yours? Gall 07000 70 70 70

ated, and it naturally opposes

But the most remarkable element of a statement issued by Mr Redwood yesterday was the fact that a Thatcherite Conservative frontbencher was lobbying a Labour government on behalf of the coal industry. Mr Redwood said the Gov-

ernment had come to power on promises to help the coal industry and to promote environmentally green policies. "Now it is finding it difficult to do both at the same time," he said. "I want to know why it has

licensed BP to build a 1.200MW gas station. Why BP, and not some of the other 27 applications that are sitting on ministers' desks? Is the Government worried that permission for this station could close another coal mine when it comes on stream, displacing coal-fired power? How many more stations will it license in the dash for gas?"

Mr Redwood, who has be-

sport as an example of the way in which the Government reached decisions, Mr Redwood said that was not the only case of decisions being taken by too few people, without proper consultation, in a burry, and not properly reported to parliament. Energy policy is another such matter," he said. "The coal industry deserves a hearing."

Hospital waiting lists keep rising

A rise in hospital waiting lists will be reported today. Health Secretary Frank Dobson will announce an action group to meet Labour's pledge to cut times, says Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent.

Teams of troubleshooters are to be appointed in the eight NHS regions in an attempt by Frank Dobson to get a grip on the waiting list figures which today will show a continued rise. Task forces will be sent into hospitals where the queues for operations such as hip replacements are the longest, to offer advice on how to reduce waiting times.

The Secretary of State for Health will also announce the creation of a national action group who will report to ministers. Members from the national group will act as to pretend they have not leaders for each of the eight gone up as much as they have task forces.

new teams underlines Govtinued rise in the waiting list figures. Mr Dobson blamed when the numbers waiting for record 1.1million, but his tone will change today to express hope that the NHS

He will announce that

it also highlights the deep concern in the Government to meet the pledge to reduce waiting lists, one of Labour's five key election promises. The total number of patients waiting for surgery rose by 3 per cent to an all-

show the rise is continuing

but it is beginning to slow.

The appointment of the trou-

bleshooters is intended to ac-

celerate the turn-around, but

time high of 1,192,700 for the quarter to August. Today's announcement will show that the rise has slowed to around 2 per cent in the quarter from July to the end of September. Mr Dobson yesterday compared the waiting lists to a supertanker. He told MPs

they would take a long time to slow and turn-around. The Government came under fire from Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on health, for failing to put more money into the NHS."They will try to manage the waiting lists

been. That is because of the The decision to appoint summer," he said. Mr Dobson was praised by erament dismay at the con- Labour MPs for pumping an extra £269m into the NHS from the defence budget to the Tory legacy in August help hospitals avoid a crisis this winter, but ministers fear hospital treatment hit a cold weather will see another sharp rise in waiting lists.

Such an increase could lead to renewed calls for ramight have turned the corner. tioning of care on the NHS, with some treatments being the latest quarterly figures dropped from cover.

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Britain and US fear Saddam will be let off the hook

The United States and Iraq both appeared keen yesterday to step back from the belligerent rhetoric of recent days. But Steve Crawshaw says Washington and London are still determined not to be seen as 'going soft' on Saddam Hussein.

Britain rebuffed an attempted Iraqi compromise whereby some US weapons inspectors would be allowed back as part of a United Nations team. But the Foreign Office also spoke of "actively pursuing a diplo-

the proposals by Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, "indicate an Iraqi willingness to move". Reassuring words are intended to persuade Iraq that sanctions will not stay in place for ever. There can, in other words, be "light at the end of the tunnel", despite Iraq's repeatedly expressed fears to the contrary. British officials talked of drawing "a road map with greater clarity" on how to get the sanctions lifted.

Part of the new-look map might be what US officials called "modest adjustments" to the oil-for-food programme. Under the current terms of the programme, Iraq can sell \$2bn (£1.25bn) of oil every six months. matic solution". British officials argued that with the proceeds controlled by the UN.

back in if there are an equal number of inspectors from other permanent members of the Security Council - Britain, France, Russia, and China. But British officials warned yesterday that President Saddam cannot be allowed to "discriminate" regarding the make-up of a UN team. They said there must be a willingness to comply with UN resolutions, in particular readiness to open up all weapons facilities for inspection in order to prevent the posses-

sion of weapons of mass destruction. Foreign Office minister Derek Fatchett, on a visit to Tokyo, argued: "I think that Saddam Hussein realises that he's gone a haps not be fundamentally" changed by

is looking for a way that he can back down and save his face." The French President, Jacques Chirac, congratulated himself on the easing of the crisis: "I have a feeling that the points I made have contributed towards what has developed today, towards

some form of détente," he said. Oil prices fell yesterday, on the perception that the crisis has begun to ease. The French Foreign Minister, Hubert Vedrine, said military action "remains convinced the US seeks a diplomatic solation, "because the situation would per-

little enthusiasm for the prospect of military action against Iraq.

Britain has been the only country to have backed Washington almost to the hilt, in its desire to punish Saddam, come what may. British officials continued to emphasise that an iron fist was still contained within the softer new glove. The emphasis was still on "readiness to consider use of force if all other measures fail".

Britain and the US have been keen to possible but is not certain". He said he was argue that all sides are acting in unison on the anti-Saddam alliance. Criticism

Iraq has said that Americans can come step too far and made a tactical mistake and military action". Arab leaders have shown from France and Russia is now more muted only because both now believe military action is an unlikely option.

In Baghdad, President Saddam held a meeting with members of the Revolutionary Command Council to discuss the stand-off. According to the official Iraqi news agency, "the political situation was discussed and the letters sent to the President from his brethren Arab presidents and monarchs were reviewed." Russia's Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, talked of Russia being "active in many different aragainst President Saddam. In reality, mileas". He emphasised: "We will do everyitary action would put intolerable pressure thing to find an exit to this crisis through the path of peaceful political settlement."

Nigeria's leader promises amnesty

Nigeria's military ruler dissolved his cabinet yesterday and and said he was granting an amnesty for some political prisoners in a speech to mark the fourth anniversary of his seizure of power.

General Sani Abacha, speaking in a radio and television address, said his government had decided to free "those detained persons whose release would constitute no further impediment to the peace and security of the country".

Gen Abacha, whose government has been accused of holding hundreds of political prisoners, did not say which detainees, or how many, would be freed. He did not mention Nigeria's best-known prisoner, the businessman Moshood Abiola, who was the presumed winner of the aborted elections in 1993.

Gen Abacha also said he was dissolving his cabinet, noting that a number of officials had indicated that they wanted to play larger roles in Nigeria's political transition. Saying Nigeria was about to "embark on the final lap of the tenure of this administration", Gen Abacha said his move followed indications from ministers that they wanted to "fully participate in the political process".

ened

He has promised to hold elections next year, handing power to a civilian government on 1 October. Pro-democracy groups, however, say he will probably orchestrate the election to ensure that he remains in power indefinitely.

The general also used his speech to attack Nigeria's independent media, which has faced repeated arrests and crackdowns, as well as to round on foreign critics of his regime.



Hot work: Rescue worker Andy Darbyshire trying to keep a killer whale cool on a beach near Exmouth, Western Australia. Seven of the animals Photograph: AP/Michael O'Brien were stranded on the beach on Sunday. Three have been refloated but three have died, including this female's call

Pakistan's leader in court for contempt

Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif denied showing contempt for the judiciary yesterday when he became the first serving Prime Minister to appear on a contempt of court charge. Mr Sharif said in a statement that he had high esteem for the judiciary, with which he has been at loggerheads for months, but said: "I have neither committed contempt of court, nor do I intend to do that."

Mr Sharif sat in court with his entire cabinet when counsel read out the statement. The hearing was adjourned until today and Mr Sharif was unlikely to appear again, aides said. His remarks fell far short of the apology which some newspapers had said he would make to the court to take some of the tension out of the nation's political life.

The continuing confrontation with Mr Sharif's nine-month-old government has dominated political life and unnerved investors. The proceedings arise out of remarks Mr Sharif made when the supreme court suspended one of his first pieces of legislation which outlawed the practice of legislators changing sides, something that has bedevilled politics in the past.

Mr Sharif's statement said it was his duty to express his views on court rulings "in the light of varying opinions: ... It is unfortunate if in the performance of my duty towards these obligations, any of my statements has been deemed by any learned judge to be in contempt."

The Pakistani Prime Minister, who returned to power with a sweeping majority in February, has been at loggerheads with the country's chief justice, Sayed Sajjad Ali Shah, for months over a variety of issues.

— Reuters, Islamabad

The Big Crocodile Winnie comes out bites back at

Despite months of behind-thescenes wooing, South Africa's former president, PW Botha, has said he intends to ignore a subpoena to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the body charged with exposing the truth about the country's apartheid past.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu vesterday said that if Mr Botha, 81, former leader of the National Party, refused to attend a hearing on the workings of the old State Security Council, he Botha: Told commission to would be prosecuted. The commission is trying to establish how the council, which Mr Botha chaired, fitted into the chair of command that allowed atrocities to take place. Those who ignore the TRC's bidding face a

fine, or two years in jail. In an interview with the Afrikaans newspaper Rapport, Mr Botha called the TRC a "circus". The Archbishop said he was sad Mr Botha appeared to He has visited Mr Botha at his retirement home to persuade Commission in the interests of

reconciliation. The TRC submitted questions for written reply, but Mr Botha missed the deadline. The commission offered to take the hearing to him after claims that he was too ill to travel to onciliation but is trying to tear Johannesburg. "In showing this the Afrikaner and the South consideration for Mr Botha we African nation apart." He have angered many South Africans who have accused us of being spineless for not unceremoniously calling him to account," Archbishop Tutu said.



keep away from his home

In his Rapport interview Mr Botha warned the TRC not to come anywhere near his home. He was prepared to meet the Archbishop again in private, at the local museum, where they could have tea. It is difficult to imagine the Groot Krokodil (Big Crocodile), as Mr Botha is known, and the Archbishop have thrown down a gauntlet. chatting for long. "I am not asking for amnesty." he said, "I did not authorise murders and I do him to co-operate with the not apologise for the struggle against the Marxist revolutionary onslaught."

Mr Botha claims the commission is turning into a revenge campaign against Afrikaners: "The truth is simply that the commission does not bring recadded that Afrikaners could not he expected to apologise for their existence or for struggling to find a place in the sun. — Mary Braid, Johannesburg

fighting in campaign apartheid inquiry for ANC power

Undaunted by accusations of murder, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela began her campaign for the deputy leadership of the ANC yesterday with a rare media interview in which she criticised her former husband's government for failing to deliver

Mrs Mandela, who is standing for office in defiance of the ANC leadership, was interviewed in her mansion in Soweto. She was in rip-roaring form, attacking claims that she murdered the 14-year-old activist Stompie Scipci Mocketsi in her garden in the late 1980s.

She called Katiza Cebekhulu, the former bodyguard who recently claimed he saw her stah Stompie, a "liar and a lunatic". She dismissed Mr Cebekhulu's patron, the former British MP Baroness Nicholson, as a "mad cow". She cast aspersious on President Mandela for even looking at Mr Cebekulu's allegations.

Mrs Mandela says there is conspiracy against her by those who dislike her preaching the "truth", which was that the ANC's "high-handed" leadership had failed the people. A "Winniephobia" campaign, she says, had been whipped up since she was nominated for the

Mrs Mandela's bid for the deputy leadership, which would favour of Jacob Zuma, an tyleader.



Winnie Mandela: says she

uncharismatic "consensus candidate" of whom the leadership approves. That makes the contest a two-horse race. Party officials can only hope the strategy succeeds. Earlier this year the leadership put up Mr Zuma's Mandela for the leadership of the ANC's Women's League. Mrs Zuma was thrashed.

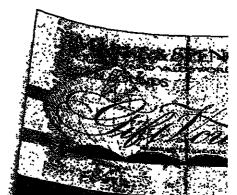
If the party is alarmed, white voters are yet more concerned. They remember her threat in 1986 that blacks would liberate South Africa "with our boxes of matches and out necklaces [execution in a burning tyre?".

Next week, Mrs Mandela will dominate the news when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission bows to her demands that the allegations against her put her within striking distance be heard in public. Two weeks of the presidency, has alarmed later, she will put herself for-ANC leaders. All other candi- ward for office at the ANC's dates for the deputy's post have conference at which President been forced to step aside in Mandela will stand down as par-

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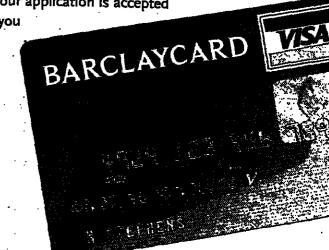
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Japan to welcome Blair the good European

Since Labour came to power last May. seven British ministers have travelled to Tokyo, a sign, Mr Patchett said, of the unportance London attached to relations with

Tony Blair will visit Japan in January, Derek Japan. While there had been no fundarony man win visit superior of State for For-Fatchett, British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, announced in Tokyo yester- Labour came to power, he believed Japanese officials felt more comfortable with Mr Blair's administration because it was more pro-Europe than the Conservative government of John Major, who visited Japan

"If there is a difference [compared to on Europe." Mr Fatchett said. The date of Mr Blair's trip has not been decided.

Britain has long been the top base in Europe for Japanese companies with interests

Burgundy's soaring price bottles up trouble for future

Prices for the poshest Burgundies went through the roof at this year's charity wine auction in Beaune, one of the key events in the global wine calendar. The high bidding, mostly on behalf of foreign buyers, angered local producers, who fear it will discourage purchasers of cheaper Burgundies. With the 1997 Beaujolais nouveau arriving on Thursday, John Lichfield, in Beaune, samples the paradoxical state of the French wine industry

Louis Trébuchet bought the most expensive items in the auction; two barrels of Batard-Montracher at the equivalent of £50 a bottle. Afterwards, he was delighted and

Delighted, because his firm, a local specialist trader, made it a "point of honour" to buy the most prized white wine in the annual charity auction of the grands crus from vineyards bequeathed over the centuries to the Hospices de Beaune. Disturbed, because the price he had paid, 152,000 francs (about £15,000) a barrel, was nearly double last year's price, confirming the sky-high trend in this year's sale.

The wine I just bought is already paid for [by dealers in New York and Dallas]. But from the point of view of cheaper and medium-price Burgundies, the price is very worrying, even dangerous. The trend will put off buyers in the cheaper categories, where Burgundy is already suffering."

Mr Trébuchet said the high auction prices this year (47 per cent up on 1996 overall) reflected the potential quality of the 1997 vintage but also the weakness of the franc and the fact that "there is a lot of money in the world for luxury items at present". In Sunday's sale, barrels were marked down to buyers from 30 countries, including the United States, Japan and Britain (there were two successful bids by Sainsbury's), but also Russia, Taiwan and



(a red Burgundy) by "Coca-Cola Japan". Christian Flacelière, a wine writer, was even blunter about the foreign money on offer. "It's sad," he said. "With prices like processed drinks.

For whatever reason, and price is not yet a major issue, wine drinking is already collapsing in France. Consumption has fall-

tening and old-fashioned. At the same time, the highest quality French wines are still enormously sought after abroad and - to our occasion. There were sampling tents the despair of some purists - production for wines and cheese and charcuterie; there that, people are going to turn to beer and of the medium-range wines has been increased in the last decade.

Although on the surface, the French wine industry is doing well, helping to boost the country's record trade surpluses, there Singapore. There were ironic boos for the en by half in the last 25 years. Two-thirds is concern that the growing dependence on purchase of one lot of Savigny-les-Beaune of French under 30 now reject wine as fat-foreign sales may prove destructive. The anxiety. In Bordeaux, the great rival to

three-day festival in Beaune - "les trois glo- Burgundy, a controversy rages about the neuses de Bourgogne" - was, as ever, a joywere wine-bottle-opening competitions; there were street performers in medieval garb, including one man who rolled drunkenly around town in a gigantic, round-bottomed barrel.

But beneath the surface jollity, there was

coarsening impact of American tastes, and specially the judgements of the US wine guru Robert Parker. It is alleged that some châteaux have abandoned the "subtlety" of French tradition for a more "vigorous" type of wine which appeals to America (that is, Parker). This was defined by one French critic as something which "strikes the

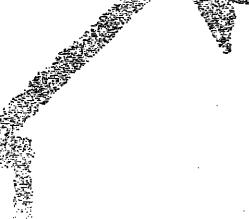
palate like a dollop of wine jam". Pierre-Henry Gagey, president of the

The Hospices de Beaune auction (main picture) is one of the highlights of the wine calendar. Above, local growers arriving for jolifications on Sunday evening Photographs: Patrick Eagar

Beaune wine traders, swore to me - with perhaps a supercilious glance towards Bordeaux - that such antics would never be accepted in Burgundy. "A great wine must remain faithful to its tenoir [locality], "he said. "The method of manufacture must express the qualities of the terroir, not blot them out."

The other export-induced threat to the character of French wine is the expansion of the areas now allowed to make appellation contrôle medium-priced wine. In an interview with Le Monde at the weekend, the British wine writer Hugh Johnson, who is enormously respected in France, said the poor quality of some bottles under appellation labels was placing the reputation of French wine in the world "at very great risk". Some wine experts present in Beaune suggested that this was the real cause of the slow sales of cheaper Burgundies.

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Britain snubbed on single currency

Britain's attempt to avoid becoming politically sidelined in Europe was in difficulty last night, after France and Germany ruled out granting Britain a seat on a proposed economic council to be reserved for governments joining the single currency.

Bonn and Paris raised a new difficulty

for the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, by suggesting that even listening to Britain's views on the new committee would be conditional on the country rejoining the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM).

Mr Brown, allied with finance ministers from Sweden, Denmark and Greece, all of whom are likely to remain outside EMU at the start in 1999, protested about plans to set up the body, to be known as "Euro-X". If the committee is to be launched, the British, Greeks, Swedes and Danes want observer places, arguing that its deliberations could have a direct impact on their economies.

But French and German ministers said the difficulties they faced were of their own making. Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, said "nobody could prevent" the euro-zone countries from launching their own informal consultations outside the framework of the EU treaty.

Euro starts to score better marks with the Germans

German angst over the im- . The latest polls show that Deutschmark. Although no euro's opponents.

Euro-sceptics across the EU have drawn hope in the past from Germans' apparent resistance to doing away with their most potent national symbol. The German parliament has the right to veto membership of Emu. But German voters have always been ambivalent. Whilst many have objected to the euro, most have always expressed a conviction that monetary union will take place, regardless of their views. Attempts by the opposition Social Democrats to appeal to "Deutschmark na-

tionalism" have failed.

pending abolition of the euro-fatalism is slowly turning German believes the euro will Deutschmark is dissipating, ac- into support. According to a sur- be "harder" than the mark, the cording to polls published yes-vey of 3,500 people, conducted proportion who fear a much terday by Focus magazine. For by the conservative Konrad softer currency is declining. the first time, one survey shows Adenauer Stiftung (Founda- Pollsters attribute this to a those supporting European tion), the proportion of Emu growing awareness that the new monetary union outnumber the opponents has shrunk in one monetary order in Europe will year from 63 to 45 per cent. Almost 9 out of 10 were convinced furt, very much on the terms of monetary union would take place. The breakthrough to ac- The establishment in the sumceptance has come," com-

> chairman, Günter Rinsche. Even more encouraging from the government's point of view is a survey carried out by the respected Allensbach institute which found that 55 per cent were in favour of Ernu, with 45 per cent against.

> The key factor in the change of attitudes is the growing realisation that the common currency may not be inferior to the

still be governed from Frankthe disappearing Bundesbank. mer of the German-inspired mented the think-tank's "stability council" marks the turning point

The polisters are also discovering that some assumptions about the mark's enduring popularity have been a myth. While the older generation associates the post-war currency with economic success, younger Germans appear to have no hang-ups about swapping one type of coin for another.

Left-wing mayors clean up in Italy

The outgoing left-wing mayors of Rome, Venice and Naples romped home to stunning re-election victories according to results published vesterday, in a glittering demonstration of the notion that a little administrative competence goes a long way in Italian politics.

While the country's centre-left government tried to take the credit and political analysts predicted a leadership crisis in the opposition, the deeper truth was that Messrs Rutelli, Cacciari and Bassolino were rewarded for at last trying to stop the rot in three of the world's most beautiful but traditionally worst-administered cities.

Francesco Rutelli, a media-conscious Green, has scrubbed Rome's filthy church façades clean, introduced electric public transport and replanted parks that had been reduced to barren ashtrays strewn with broken glass. Massimo Cacciari, a misanthropic philosopher, has dredged Venice's canals and tried to halt the decline in the city's population. Antonio Bassolino has built up star status by giving Naples some of its self-confidence back and attracting tourists to its freshly scrubbed old centre. All three men won over 60 per cent. - Andrew Gumbel, Rome

Europe pays farmers billions for non-existent losses

The European Commission will be blamed today for handing out billions of pounds to farmers to compensate them for losses they never suffered.

Presenting the annual report to the European Parliament from the EU's spending watchdog, Bernhard Friedmann. president of the Court of Auditors, will single out British handling of BSE-related payments for particularly strong

Under a scheme for slaugh-

£270 per animal only after incineration. But the auditors have found that although claims for 1 million animals were made by end of last year, only 27,000 were incinerated. The British authorities also allowed older cattle, potentially carrying a risk of infection, to be put on

the market with EU aid. The EU's chief auditor has refused to certify the bloc's annual accounts for the third year

tering cattle over 30 months old, running, because of such lax ercise control over the revenue by for grain, rose from 1995 and British farmers were to receive control over taxpayers' money. The report says poor bookkeeping, erroneous payments,

waste and fraud meant £2.8bn - 5.4 per cent of the total £52bn budget - could not be properly accounted for. Mr Friedmann will tell the

European Parliament that the court was unable to find any audit trail for an alarming 4.3 per cent of transactions checked.

He will blame the authorities

EU states for failing to ex-

they collect on behalf of the Community, or the cash they pass on to farmers, job trainees, small businesses, local author-

Big cercal landowners, many in Britain, were over-compensated by £2bn and beef producers by £550m.

ities and other beneficiaries.

Cheque-in-the-post style payments introduced by Brussels in 1992 were intended to

the system places no ceiling on plementing the project. the amounts individuals can EU grant aid programmes to

help poorer regions also come receive special aid, but the auditors reveal there is no definbig corporations sometimes

In Spain, a 12m grant for a skilled trades scheme was spent offset projected price drops. But market prices, particularon a computer centre for the

company supposed to be im-

The auditors also blow the whistle on members of the Economic and Social Committee, a Brussels-based consultative in for censure. Small companies body made up of interest groups, employers and trade unionists. Forty were found to tion of a small company, so that be fiddling their travel expenses over a three-month period last year at a cost to the taxpayer of around £2m.

— Kathenne Butler. Brussels



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RY NICOLE VEASH AND JACK O'SULLIVAN

In a world of insecure jobs, young women are infinitely better prepared. While young men are still hoping to be footballers, women are busy planning their lives from school to work, acquiring that all-important work experience at every

opportunity. This is the picture presented by 2020 vision, a survey by the industrial Society of 10,000 young Britons aged between 12 and 25, the largest study of its kind. The

Independent continues its exclusive look at the study every day this week.

Rebecca Jones, 22, is typical of a new breed of can-do women. "From the age of 12 I knew that I wanted to do a classics degree. I loved Latin and I enjoyed my Greek and I focused on getting

the grade to go to university. When I left Cambridge. while I didn't know the precisely job for life and more likely to what job I wanted, I knew ex- pick themselves up after beactly what I wanted to get out coming unemployed and take of it. I wanted something with the type of action that will sevariety, prospects for promotion, something that was exciting, dynamic and dealt with job, jobless women are more people." Today, she works as a strategic planner in a London advertising agency.

Lancaster University, has not planned his life. "I'm very worried that I've done no work experience. I've never been taught

of the research will be launched next Monday.



how to deal with an office for example. I never really thought about work until this term.

"Then I saw jobs being advertised and the deadlines and I thought I'd better hurry up and think of what I want to do. It is very frightening when you have 20 applications on your desk.

"A lot of guys seem to be getting a rude awakening, when they're suddenly besieged with stuff from the careers service. Women seem to focus on what they want to do for the future. Quite a few, for example, have taken a year off in industry. They certainly study harder they're more conscientious."

Young women, reveals the survey, are also more in tune with economic change. They are less likely than men to expect a cure fresh work. So whereas men tend to wait for the right willing to get fresh qualifications and take careers advice.

Women also recognise even In contrast, Paul Dunbar, a more than their male peers third-year economics student at that the key skills in today's age of communication are literacy and "getting on with people".

"The whole communication thing," says Rebecca Jones, "is

2020 Vision is co-ordinated by the Industrial Society. The Action Agenda along with full results

really important, especially as this sector in the job market is expanding. Women seem to be especially good at communicating and that is why we are getting a higher profile."

And they are learning all the time - women recognise more than men that home is a place where they can learn skills, be it for running a home, maintaining a family.

Women also have a strong agenda for ensuring their own success at work. More than a third of women, compared with a fraction of men, expect more childcare in the workplace within 10 years. And they are fierce supporters of men taking up their share of childcare - 93 per cent think men and women should take equal responsibility for caring for children.

Rigid, long hours are anathema to the new female generation who see such practices as blocking their progress. A third expect more flexible hours to be available within 10 years and half think there will be more working from home.

"Women," says Rebecca Jones, "are driving the way we change at work. It is all about doing what we want to do on our own terms. This is a much more progressive way of thinking and it is about flexibility in the workplace.

"If, for example, I had children and I wanted time off, I would take it and have to fit that in with my work. If I wanted to leave at five and work on my laptop I would have to do that. We do the job in the end but it doesn't have to involve taking part in the faces game, just sitting at our desks and being there

ing things from a different by what you believe in. Work ciety. I've got a lot of single perspective. Women are prepared to take everyone's feelings on board. They are more team-based and democratic.

have tunnel vision. They can only see things one way. They seem to find it hard to compromise and their communication is quite poor, which can only ones who can make things sometimes be frustrating. Women are more persis-

Some men I work with

to get on in life just because I'm tent. Men just seem to give up when problems arise or they just delegate downwards. I think we have really Negotiation is really important and that is why women appear

giving up. You can still stand an important part to play in so-

is all about give and take.

competitive than women, which can be a good thing, but we get emotionally involved with what we are doing.

ture. We know that we are the Men just say the opportu-

nities are not out there. I think the problem is that young men don't have a traditional role to be so much more focused. Compromising is not about Men need to realise they have

mothers as friends who are all going back to higher education. They feel they have missed out and that is the only way for them to get off income support. They need to help themselves and they are very focused on

It's no longer important to marry or settle down and have a child. If a man doesn't stick around after a baby is born.

women aren't that bothered any more. We can cope without a man around and it's less There is onus on young

women to succeed and do more. Even that girl-power

thing is like peer pressure. The media is telling women that they have got to go further and do better, so in the end being a career-oriented woman



Mina Dye Sharp: Women are more realistic about the job market in the future. We know that we are the only ones who can make things hap

Women have better skills for the modern world

After graduating from Bradford University, Mina Dye-Sharp, 24, became a community youth volunteer.

A lot of women realise they have got to be focused. We feel we have got to do better than men and also better than the next woman, But I don't want a woman. I want to succeed on merit and on my abilities.

changed the workplace. We are better listeners than men, not

Blokes are generally more

Women are more realistic about the job market in the fu-

could be like conforming to a



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It's what you want to know

We're fed up with meaningless sex by the time we're in our twenties

"My friend's got three kids and he's got another on the way," says 19-year-old Damian. "But since he turned 17, he's settled down with his girlfriend. I suppose that's what we all want to do these days."

Damian Julienne, from Birkenhead, has grown up with sex. He had his first full sexual encounter at 10 with a 14-yearold girl from down the street.

"Yes, I was really young, but it wasn't like sex, like I have today, it was more of an investigation and if I look back it eems laughable." he says.

"When I turned 15, sex bccame like a regular, more serious thing. But last year I met a girl and fell in love and it totally changed the way I feel about relationships."

Although things did not work out for Damian and he has steered cleared of other commitment since, he admits that somewhere along the line he wants to shake off any lad-like

just to be in a long-term relationship with someone I was committed to."

Damian is not is not alone among young Britons.

A picture emerges from the 2020 Vision research of a generation of young people who are knowledgeable about sex from an early age, but who at the same time take a rather traditional view on intimacies by the time they reach their late teens and early twenties.

rector for the Industrial Society.

Jo Gardiner, campaign di-

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"I might have had a lot of says: "Young Britons know enjoy frequent casual sex withgirlfriends in the past, but I much more about sex at an out responsibility is really just would love to settle down. earlier age than previous an old-fashioned myth that Maybe not to get married, but generations and because they takes examples from the Sixties are well-informed they can act

> "So although they tend to xperiment earlier what they really want is responsibility in relationships and commitment to one person. They don't want to jump into hed with just

Lois Lancaster, 24, of London, has been in a relationship for five years. She believes that her peers are more interested in commitment than wild sex for the sake of it.

"The idea that young people

gain from a long-term sexual relationships." Young people are more open to sex than any generation before them and they tend to

and Seventies for evidence," she

sex, but most of my friends don't

sleep around. Partly this is

due to the Aids risk and partly

it is because we are told about

sex from such an early age.

It just holds no surprises and

there is so much more to

"We might know a lot about

use that freedom in a responsible manner. As Damian explains: "There are no limits on sex these days. We know everything when we are still in the playground. But it doesn't matter how liberal you are because by the time we are in our twenties we

are fed up with meaningless

Forward planning - the girlie key to success

Boiton, presented Channel Four's The Girlie Show and is now the face of Vladivar Vodka.

"It's important to think ahead about the future. I've modelled in Manchester, New York and Milan and I'm having a brilliant time drinking vodka and being paid loads for doing it. But I'm under no illusions that I'm still going to be a celebrity when I'm in my dotage like Cilla. So I'm looking to have my own show soon, where I'm chat-

ting to people. "I'm pretty independent, living on my own in north-west London. It's important for me to be a strong woman.

with as many partners as men any Tom, Dick or Harry."



bedroom. But I don't play in the rain without a macintosh - it's got to be safe and fun. I do prefer to be with one person. I like getting to know people really well. You get more out of the "Young women like me feel sex. I'm not one to cop off bewe have every right to have sex hind the local kebab caterie with

Robin Banks, 25, is a lunchtime DJ on Virgin FM.

"I started out in radio when I was 12. I sort of just fell into it, it was a stroke of luck really and once I got into the whole radio thing I just stuck with it. "My female friends are a lot

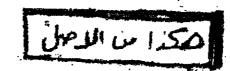
more organised about their careers. By the time they reach their late teens they knew exactly what they wanted and where they were going.

"They have always been much more focused on everything they do in comparison to blokes. Deep down, guys know



"I heard this joke the other day which really summed it all up. When a woman wakes up in the morning she jumps out of what they want but they don't bed and says I must get dressed, show it. Their careers tend to I must go to tollet, I must do this be a fol more 'let's see how it and do that. While a bloke will goes', while women show their lie in bed for ten minutes sayfeelings a lot more which helps ing come on thought, come on them articulate what they want. brain ... ah, yes, food ."

TOMORROW: Young Britons - they're obsessed with education



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trants shrink

Welfe char

The castle on steroids that glitters anew

The Royal Family will on Thursday celebrate the golden wedding of the Queen and Prince Philip in the state dining room at Windsor exactly five years after it was gutted by fire. Stephen Goodwin, Heritage Correspondent, toured the castle where glory has replaced devastation.

Gorgeous George IV would have loved the curtains. The flounce and ostentation is back in his crimson and green drawing rooms at Windsor, where the original exuberance has been restored to the valances, tassels shrunken, dowdier appearance.

"Architecture on steroids," was the apt description by Jane Brighty, a specialist in curtain decoration. It applies to all of the "semi state rooms" - these drawing rooms, the state dining room, the octagon dining room and the China corridor - which will be open to the public for the first time after Christmas.

The huge tassel order went to Portugal, about the only craftwork done outside Britain. Silk damask cost £78,000, the curtain trimmings £36,000 and 500,000 leaves of gold were used to gild the ceilings.

blaze raced from end to end of the 180ft roof void, will be reopened in an airy form not familiar to George IV. And in an all-but-new private chapel there is stained-glass based on a sketch by Prince Philip, who had overall charge of the restoration.

On 20 November 1995 nine principal rooms and more than 100 others were damaged in a fire which lit up the Berkshire sky. It started in the private chapel where paintings were being inspected while rewiring was underway. Someone screamed "get the paintings out" and all but one of the works of art in the main rooms were saved.

Servants of the royal household were yesterday preening themselves on the fact that the "Windsor job" had been comand gilt after decades of a pleted six months early and for £3m under its £40m budget. "The restoration has been undertaken at no extra cost to the taxpayer," emphasised officials. That is not to say at "no cost".

> In the face of public indignation, the Queen released the Tory government from its promise to pay for the repairs and agreed to meet 70 per cent of the cost. The other 30 per cent comes from the annual government grant to the Royal

Household property section. The style of the restoration is pretty much what one might have expected from the House of Windsor. As Prince Philip St George's hall, where the pointed out, a complete re-tinguished pedigree - about 50 son; Michael Joseph; £20.



Downesian gothic: St George's hall, redesigned by architect Giles Downes. The low, dark wood ceiling has been replaced with one more lofty in the most ambitious piece of Photograph: Andrew Buurman green oak joinery since the 16th century; craftsmen used 350 Hertfordshire oaks felled in 1995. Tracery and panelling match the roof beams

had been saved. A theatrical touch has been added by an equestrian statue on the musicians' gallery of the hall. Prince Philip wanted "something dra-

design was out since all the fur- years old and made of plaster niture, carpets and works of art - but the armour was once worn by Sir Christopher Hatton, Queen Elizabeth 1's champion. Windsor Restored; ITV; 10,40pm Thursday 20 November, Restoration, The Rebuilding matic". The horse has an undis- of Windsor Castle; Adam Nicol-

Instant win at Boots

MARKEY BROS. 1 - SAFETY EXCERTISABLE

Lottery handouts for arts shrink

The curtain came down on huge lottery handouts for the arts in England yesterday when the Arts Council declared a £15m ceiling on individual grants for the next eight years. The Government's introduction of a "sixth good cause" - youth and training - cut

its cash from £250m a year to £200m. The Arts Council of England said geting lottery funding in future, balancing regional and national needs.

ess sex

nties

Of the £1bn in capital grants over the next eight years, £200m has been earmarked for projects over £15m and will barely cover schemes already in the pipeline. The South Bank Centre in London, the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratfordupon-Avon, Bristol's Harbourside Centre and Gateshead's Regional Music Centre are likely to account for that cash, if their bids are successful.

Jeremy Newton, the Arts Council's National Lottery director, said: "There simply is not enough money to meet

Wildlife charter Twenty-two of Britain's nature organ-

isations yesterday called for new wildlife legislation to save precious species and habitats which are being lost. The Wildlife Trusts, the Royal So-

ciety for the Protection of Birds, Friends of the Earth and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) were among those who called on the Government to live up to its election manifesto commitment for tougher action.

They published a wildlife charter to show what should be done, including legal muscle to protect sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs), hundreds of which are damaged every year. It wants lists of protected species to be updated to include creatures such as the water vole, the fastest-declining native mammal, and calls for the introduction of special areas for important marine wildlife, which currently receives hardly any protection at all.

- Louise Jury

BA's new airline takes on no-frills operators

British Airways announced yesterday it will launch a low cost airline to compete with no-frills carriers. Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent, examines BA's

BA's plans, revealed exclusively by the Independent on Sunday last month, will see the new operator, codenamed Operation Blue Sky, fly from London Stansted.

BA has been squeezed by smaller operators - which have been able to offer cheaper fares by flying from less expensive, less congested airports and cutting out extras such as meals.

Their success has been remarkable. Ryanair, which also operates from Stansted, earlier this month announced a rise in half year profits from £9.4m to £17.3m. In just 24 months, Easyjet - which runs flights from Luton - has taken 32 per cent of the

market on the London to Nice route. The upstarts are nervous that BA's plans are nothing but a front to run them each carry about 130 passengers - and will out of town. Tony Anderson, Easyjet's mar- fly three times a day to European destiketing director, said: "They must be able to prove they're doing it to make money, gets," said Mrs Cassani. "I have to break not just to drive us out of business." Easy-

iet and Debonair Airways are both considering legal action.

The new company, which will be wholly-owned by BA, will have its own name, identity, management and employees. It will not use travel agents. Passengers will book by credit card on the telephone, and can expect a "frugal flier" service, with no meal

and perhaps one complimentary drink. BA are coy about the details. Barbara Cassani, formerly in charge of the airline's US operations and in charge of the new carrier, will only say that fares will be "competitive" and that the new airline will fly to cities in Italy, Spain, Scandinavia, France and Germany by the end of the first year. More than 150 new jobs are expected to be created when the aircraft launches "early next year".

Mrs Cassani will compete not only with low cost rivals - but with traditional BA flights from Heathrow and Gatwick. "This has to be a stand alone company that makes money," said Mrs Cassani. Initially, the new airline will lease eight 737 aircraft - which nations. "We have very clear financial tareven and move into profit by 2001."

THE FIRST LADY OF FLIGHT



Britain's new first lady of flight is inappropriately American. Barbara Cassani, 37, (left) was hand-picked by Bob Ayling, BA's globalist chief executive, to run the flag carrier's new low-cost carrier.

Plucked from New York, the airline executive is as femimine as she is feisty. She charms reporters in conversation as quickly as she puts them down. A mother of two - who is married to an English investment banker - she eschews the antics of her better known rivals at Virgin. "I won't be jumping out of a cake at the launch party," she dryly remarks.

Little more could be expected of someone who after Princeton, worked as a management consultant at Coopers and Lybrand and started with BA soon after it was privatised in 1987. Big things are expected of Mrs Cassani. With BA lack-

ing any director with any real stage presence, this highprofile job could prove her ticket to the top.

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World's policemen let Bosnia's worst killers walk free

The map on this page, published today by the independent monitoring group Human Rights Watch, graphically illustrates the West's failure in Bosnia. Nato knows the location of over 40 men wanted on war crimes charges, but the S-For peacekeepers have attempted just two arrests since the end of the war. Andrew Gumbel reports on the West's unfinished business in the Balkans.

In the swirling cauldron of rumours, conspiracy theories, whispers and lies that bubble away in Bosnia, no hot tip has surfaced so frequently, or so insistently, as the story of Radovan Karadzic's imminent arrest. Back in July, it was said the former Bosnian Serb president was so scared of being betrayed that he had replaced his entire 50strong personal bodyguard.

In August, word spread that a commando unit had actually set up a raid on his headquarters in Pale, in the mountains above Sarajevo, but that something went wrong at the last moment. The rumours have intensified since. "He'll be arrested before the onset of winter," they said at one point. "Wait until the Bosnian Serb elections are out of the way, and then you'll see the international community snap into action," is the favoured theory at the moment.

The fact is that Mr Karadzic remains at large, barred from public office but still able to manipulate his political and business interests from behind the scenes. Free, too, are many of his former associates accused of setting up concentration camps and massacring Muslim civilians in their hundreds and thousands - some of them living openly in eastern Bosnia . And free, as well, are a clutch of Muslims and Bosnian Croats who appear on the indictment list issued by the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague but whose names have they say, is not a country where Western



Watching brief: Will UN forces, like these French soldiers, take action?

elicited little interest from the international community or the Western media.

What the Human Rights Watch map illustrates is that many of the suspects live within a stone's throw of S-For bases. True, S-For's mandate insists that indictees should be arrested only if encountered in the course of normal duties, but testimony from several different sources suggests such encounters are frequent and even, on occasion, downright chummy. "The map shows that Nato's failure to arrest has nothing to do with its inability to locate indicted persons," said Human Rights Watch spokeswoman Holly Cartner. "It's a grievous failure of political will."

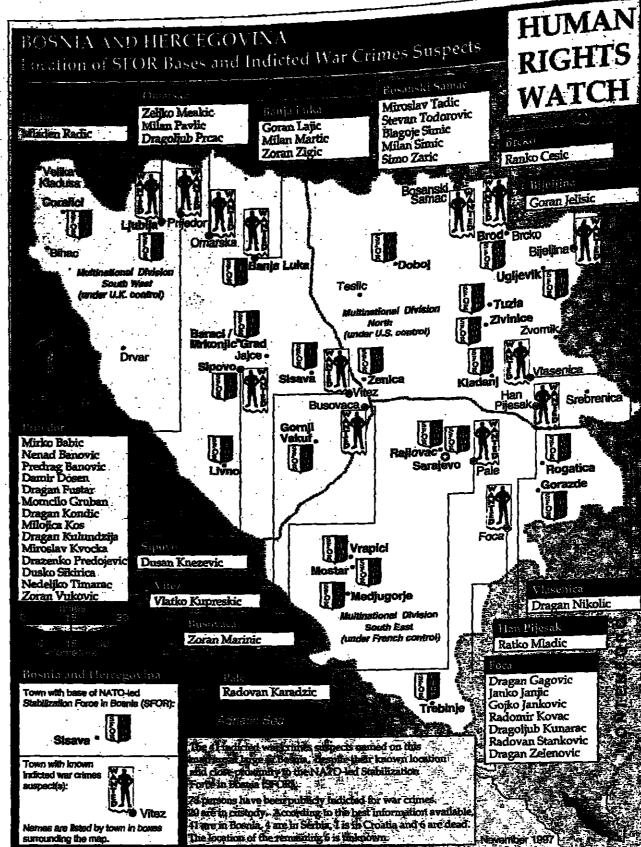
Western officials on the ground argue privately that the issue is more complicated than neglect or lack of nerve. Bosnia,

notions of independent justice stand much chance of being understood, and any arrest is bound to be interpreted as a political act, even if it is not meant that way. The international community has responded in kind, using arrests or the threat of them as a means to achieving progress on other froms, such as media freedom or dialogue. between the former warring factions.

The problem with such an approach is that it confirms the suspicion of Bosnian Serb nationalists that the Hague tribunal is an international conspiracy. And it also risks deferring arrests almost indefinitely. In July, S-For arrested one suspect and killed another in the northern town of Prijedor, but nothing similar has materi-alised since. According to some sources, Mr Karadzic's arrest was deferred during the summer because of the impending local elections. Then the moment of muth was put off again while international negotiators installed a multi-ethnic council in the disputed town of Breko. This weekend's Bosnian Serb parliamentary elections and next month's presidential poll may prove to be further excuses

All this might be fine if arresting war criminals was merely a matter of honour, but there are stronger reasons to act quickly. Many of the worst Bosnian Serb offenders are part of a huge smuggling and extortion racket run by Mr Karadzic and his associates. Prospects for injecting a modicum of democratic pluralism into Serb-held Bosnia depend in part on dismantling this struc-

ture and rounding up the ring-leaders.
All sides in Bosnia need to face up to the horror of what happened if they are to soften the nationalist policies which created the conflict in the first place. And there has been progress recently, in spite of S-For's inaction. Some Serb and Croat militia members have recently confessed to horrifying crimes and willingly given themselves up to local courts. And an independent magazine in Sarajevo, Dani, has published detailed reports of murders carried out by Muslim militias against Serb civilians.



TRIBUNAL READY TO ACT

Nations war crimes tribunal for former Yugoslavia, created operational and able to concentrate on prosecutions, the Cassese said yesterday. Addressing international digni-

new judges, Mr Cassese said the new tribunal heralded the end four years ago, is at last fully of a time when people responsible for horrendous crimes went unpunished. "During the outgoing president Antonio next four years, our tribunal will focus on the task of prosecuting the accused." he said.

VUKOVAR ON ALERT AFTER BLASTS

THE HAGUE: The United taries, at the swearing in of five ZAGREB: Police in the eastern but no casualties. After Croatyears ago, have increased secu- People's Army took the town on other incidents at the weekend. a UN spokesman said. The

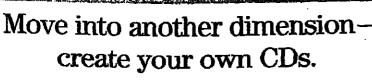
Croatian town of Vukovar, ia's secession from Yugoslavia, lowhich fell to Serb forces six cal Serbs backed by the Yugoslav rity following two bombings and 18 November 1991. The surrounding area has been administered by the UN since January bombings, at a school and a mu- 1996 but is due to be reintenicipal building, caused damage grated into Croatia next year.



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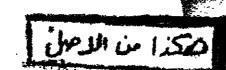
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The press likes to focus on the negative. Of the 3.7 million smears done every year, the vast majority are correctly interpreted by undervalued lab staff working their

butts off.

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Preservation – and self-preservation – is the order of the day for Yvonne Trchalik and other enthusiastic members of the Green Gym

Photograph: john Lawrence

Why go down to the gym today, when you could go down to the woods?

If fitness is the prescription, there are better, more beautiful, greener ways of achieving it than in a mechanical gym. An Oxfordshire doctor has come up with a whole new milieu, ideal for those who can see the wood for the trees. Caroline Green reports from outdoors.

Dr William Bird, a GP in the Sonning Common medical practice in Oxfordshire, had been wondering for some time how he could persuade more people in the village to take regular exercise. One evening, after a particularly stressful day at work, he went for a walk round the village and, as he appreciated the scenic countryside around him, he had an idea. Why not get people to use the environment as a resource for getting fit, instead of trying to force them to join gyms

or take up new sports? He duly set up a programme of organised local walks and three years on, the so-called Health Walks are so successful that eight other practices around the county are to start similar schemes. Bird began to see promis-

ing results, and found he was prescribing less medication generally. Now he's about to take things a stage further. In conjunction with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) he has set up an innovative scheme in which people will get fit by doing environmental conservation

The Green Gym project will involve monitoring the physical fitness of a group of volunteers as they carry out a range of BTCV-organised events such as tree planting, hedge maintenance and cleaning up rivers. Although there has been a general perception for many years that the countryside may have a therapeutic effect both mentally and physically, hard evidence to date is sketchy to say the least, perticularly where there's an altruistic, volunteering element. Bird aims to get the facts on whether this form of exercise really does have beneficial effects on fitness and mental

"The philosophy behind the Health Walks and the Green Gym is that we can use the countryside as a resource for health," he says. "It's the first time anything like this has been done. Lack of exercise is our biggest epidemic in this country, but the NHS can't afford to tackle the problem on its own. We have to find a way of making physical activity at-

effective for the National Health Service." Many surgeries around the

> in place for "prescribing" physical activity under the Exercise Referral Scheme, where patients with a range of health problems, from heart disease to high blood pressure, high cholesterol to arthritis are given eight free sessions at a local gym. The surgery pays for the sessions, but they're heavily subsidised by the gyms themselves, which are relying on the fact that people may sign up at the end of the programme. But according to research commissioned by William Bird, there is a dropout rate of up to 80 per cent with the Patient Referral Scheme. People just don't stick with it. "There are lots of reasons why it often doesn't work," he says. "It's intimidating for people who may be old and unfit to go to gyms and be faced with all these gorgeous, lycra-clad bodies. They may have to travel some distance to them, and going to a gym is not a very sociable activity, which also puts people

> By contrast, the Health Walks have had a drop-out rate of only 12 per cent and Bird is hoping that the Green Gym project will offer similar results in the long term. Dorothy Rose, an ex-murse, found, like

ing up work deprived her of her main source of exercise. She retired in 1986 and by 1994 country already have a system she was overweight, had high healthy subjects' responses to blood pressure and her cholesterol levels fell into the very high risk" category for developing heart disease. "I'd let myself go," says Dorothy, who is now 65. "It's very easy to slip into the habit of just sitting about when you stop working. I did go to a gym with my son once and it frightened me. It was full of strange

equipment and no-one spoke

to anyone else. I thought this

isn't for me."

Dorothy was involved in the walks from the beginning. She says: "Within six months, my cholesterol was down, my blood pressure had dropped, and I'd lost three stone in weight." Sixty volunteers, all unfit, will be picked by Dr Bird in January: 30 people will be involved in conservation orojects, while the other half will carry on their normal inactivity and act as a control group. At the end of six months, they will be examined and have their weight, blood pressure and cholesterol measured. They will also fill out a stan-

At the same time, the Department of Health Care Studies at Oxford Brookes

dard questionnaire used by

psychologists to assess a sub-

ject's state of mental well-

tractive, and it has to be cost- a lot of retired people, that giv- University has been commissioned by Bird, with funding from the Countryside Commission and Shell UK, to test various conservation tasks. Twenty people will be hooked up to heart monitors while they carry out a range of activities from simply identifying wild flowers to digging ponds. The idea is to get a precise picture of the musculoskeletal, calorific and metabolic demands of each task

Using this information, the Green Gym activities can eventually be graded according to how strenuous they are, and what demands they make on the body.

Yvonne Trchalik, age 23, is the Green Gym Project Officer. She says: "I've never been into sports or going to a gym and for me, conservation work is the way I keep fit - I've been doing it since I was 13. I can feel a difference in myself when I've been on a week's conservation work: I feel fitter and stronger.

"Conservation work can be a form of aerobic exercise, because you get a bit out of breath doing it. One of the more gentle tasks is what's known as plug planting, where you plant wild flowers using a special tool. You don't even have to bend over to do that. Coppicing involves chopping down trees to promote regrowth and increase the diversity of species in a wood, and that's among the most stremuous activities.

"I like to work with a group of people on something like making a kissing gate (a gate now used instead of a stile) and then being able to see it in use afterwards. I'm not a very strong, burly sort of person but doing this sort of work has definitely made me stronger and fitter." It's the first time the BTCV has been involved in a health project. Trchalik says: "Research in the past has suggested a link between the environment and a feeling of well-being, but the Green Gym is the first time conservation work has been linked to health."

Because she's now fit and well, Dorothy Rose won't be involved in the research proiect. But once the Green Gym is up and running, other local people can get involved too and Dorothy fully intends to try her hand at a spot of digging, planting and dredging. "We do quite a bit of that kind of work anyway," she says. "As we walk around we hammer down nails on stiles and cut our own

"I find it very interesting. It's beautiful to watch the changing seasons and it's like a social event as well as a way of exercising. I've discovered now that getting older doesn't necessarily mean you can't



DR PHIL HAMMOND

"Hello doctor. I've been invited for a smear." "Have you tried the

nurse?" "Bloody typical."

"What?" "You fanny around on

the TV telling women to get informed consent before we have a smear and when I try, you tell me to go and see the nurse." 'I'm sorry. I'm having

trouble reconciling my media life with my doctor-'My heart bleeds."

"Look, perhaps we should restart the consultation ... "Hello doctor. I've been

invited for a smear." "I see. I expect you'll be wanting some informed

"Too bloody right." "Tell me, what do you understand about cervical

screening?" "I thought it was to stop me getting cervical cancer. But then I read this story in the Evening Post about a 29year-old woman who had a negative smear, was found to have cancer three months later and died with-

in four months." "It's very sad, but it doesn't mean there's a fault with the screening programme.

"How can you say that?" "Because screening never has and never will prevent all cases of cervical cancer. The tragedy is that when young women get the disease, it tends to come on rapidly and be very aggressive, so it is possible to have a negative smear and develop cancer soon after-

But you hear in the press all the time about laboratories cocking it up."

"Because the press focus on the negative. Of the 3.7 million smears done every year, the vast majority are interpreted correctly by undervalued lab staff working their butts off."

"For what?" "Screening prevents around half of the cancers. stops some women having radical surgery and radiotherapy for advanced disease, preserves their ability to have children and saves

around 1,000 lives a year." "So why don't you see headlines in the paper saying 'Cervical screening saved my life?"

"Because you can never be sure whose life has been saved.* "Wby?'

"Screening picks up risky cells in the cervix which may one day turn into cancer if untreated. Lowrisk cells in mildly abnormal smears virtually never progress to cancer and the only treatment needed is a repeat smear in six months' time. If you have moderaterisk cells, about one in 12 may turn into cancer over a number of years, and for high-risk cells it's around one in three. This is thought to be risky enough to offer treatment to all the women with moderate and severe changes - along with those with persistent mild ones -even though most would

never develop cancer." "So a lot of women are getting treatment that may not benefit them?"

"True, but then medical science isn't yet sufficiently advanced to identify exactly who will get cancer. so you have to treat around 50 women to prevent one CARCET."

"Still, that's not bad

"Yes, but to find the 50 women, we have to do smears on 4,000, of which 250 will be mildly abnor-

"But you've already said a mildly abnormal smear is nothing to worry about." "No, I didn't. I said

these changes virtually never progress to cancer." Same thing."

"In theory, perhaps. But some women with mild changes are convinced they've got cancer, and worry like stink about it."

"Partly because no one's ever sat down with them to explain that an abnormal smear does not mean cancer. And if they do, it tends to be after they've already had the result, and it's too late to stop the worrying."

"Which is why you're so keen on informed consent before the first smear."

"Especially because mildly abnormal smears are so common - 10 per cent of

those in women under 35." "But that's the price you pay for trying to prevent

cervical cancer." "True, but it's a rare disease anyway. For every woman of screening age who dies from it. I see 10 deaths from heart disease and four from lung cancer. If it was a choice between giving up cigarettes or having smears to live longer, I know which I'd go for."

"So you're saying don't bother?"

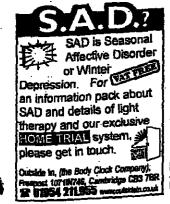
"No, I'm saying make your own decision. If you don't mind the procedure and you can cope with the auxiety of an abnormal smear, then go for it. It'll reduce but not stop your already small risk of a very unpleasant disease. But if you think your risk is low and you'd rather not have one, don't feel coerced into it just because I get paid £2,000 for hitting the smear

'In that case, I think I'll have one."

"Fine. Have you tried the nurse?"

Twins tell us things about truths about pain that nobody else could

Some people feel pain more readily than others. Is that nature or nurture? New research involving identical and non-identical twins tells us it's nurture says Jeremy Laurance



Tolerance of pain varies among individuals, in the same person from day to day, between the sexes and among nations. One of its most puzzling features is its variability. An injury on the sports field that hardly interrupts play may prove disabling if it occurs on a country walk. Among individuals, studies show that pain thresholds vary more than ten-fold, yet pain serves the same function in all of us - to warn of injury and trigger escape.

So why the variability? Doctors at St Thomas's hospital compared reactions in over 600 pairs of female twins - female, because they were the ones who volunteered for the study. They found that environmental influences proved more important in shaping their response to pain than genetic factors.

The doctors, from the Twin Research Unit at St Thomas's, tested each volunteer with a spring-loaded instrument like a giant plunger which was used to apply increasing pressure to a spot in the centre of their foreheads about the size of a five pence piece. The volunteers were asked to call out when they felt pain and the pressure was measured.

Half the pairs of twins in the study were identical with the same genetic make-up and half were non-identical, as genetically different as ordinary sisters. All had been reared together as twins in the same households, so shared the same upbringing and home environ-

The results, published this month in the medical journal Pain, showed a range in pain thresholds from half a kilo per square centimetre to 7.5 kilos, with most tolerating between two and four kilos. Each pair of twins had similar scores suggesting that their experience of pain was determined by something in their family background - but there was no difference between the identical and non-identical sets; indicating that genetic similarity had no influence. That left environmental factors - the in-

fluence of home and family. Dr Tim Spector, director of the unit, said: "Looking at twins in this manner enables us to highlight the importance of shared environmental factors, such as family background, as

opposed to genetic factors, in determining a person's pain threshold. Clearly a person's family can have a great influence on their attitude to pain."

"Were the parents protective or dismissive when the child injured itself? Did the child get a reward or a clip round the ear? The parent's example would have been important, too. Was the Dad, for instance, always taking time off work and complaining or was he the stoical type who never complained?

Identical twins Gillian Sonin and Judith Magnus were active, outdoor children who took knocks and bruises in their stride. Now both piano teachers at Mill Hill school in north London they believe the levelheaded approach adopted by their parents has shaped their own responses to pain. Both scored close to the average 2.5 kilos on the pain threshold

Gillian said: "We were a pair of tomboys, always out on our bikes, falling in stinging nettles or going over the handlebars, like most children. Our parents made no undue fuss when we were hurt."

Judith added: "I took the top off my finger once, trapping it in a bicycle chain when I was four or five. I remember it very well. I wasn't frightened, I was just fascinated looking at it."

Sheila Bannister and Maureen Noad, non-identical twins, remember their mother being firm but sympathetic. "She would be cruel to be kind," says Maureen. Neither had any difficulty coping with childbirth, although Maureen remembers crying out for her mother in the final stages. "But I never screamed the place down like some of these young mothers

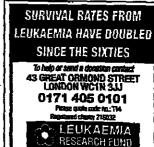
Studies suggest men have higher pain thresholds than women although women claim childbirth would crack any man's stiff upper lip. Pain thresholds tend to rise with age

"Whether that is because older people have more pain or get less reward for putting up with it we do not know, Dr Spector

Northern Europeans tend to be more stoical than people from Mediterranean countries. whose culture encourages emotional expression. But is stoicism the right quality to

cultivate in yourself and your family? Not necessarily, according to Dr Spector.

" In some ways stoicism can help you keep a job and get through life. But in others it may be a disadvantage. Arthritis is an area where the traditional stoic patient is treated later than they should have been. Complaining can be good for you."



When it comes to sex, there's nothing quite like an honest Puck

Every time a child says "I don't believe in fairies," there's a little fairy somewhere that falls down dead' (JM Barrie, 'Peter Pan'). In which case, over at the Royal Academy, they must be dropping as fast as flies in a Damien Hirst vitrine. For, as Tom Lubback observes, it takes an adult imagination to appreciate the erotic potential of fairyland.

Do you believe in fairies? WB Yeats had a robust answer for the scoffers. "Imagination!" he would say with a

withering contempt. "There wasn't much imagination when Farmer Hogan was dragged out of bed and thrashed like a sack of potatoes. That they did ... they had 'um out, and thumped 'um, and that's not the sort of thing a man wants to imagine." I don't know whether this shows that Yeats was himself a believer. but it was an effective retort, because it made the sceptics look like the airy impractical ones; it was they, with their ideas of dainty, diaphanous entities. who were in thrall to a fancy.

vanish if you look twice or if the fairies spot you first... It was a fancy partly created by the sort of images to be seen in "Victorian Fairy Painting" at the Royal Academy. This is a curious show, valuable in a way, because it focuses on pictures that -like that you still had one in an ex-

the fairies themselves - one is plained, urban, industrialised which go dink, dink, dink likely to dismiss as trifles; and, although the genre didn't produce more than a few good works, it was extensive, and part of a wider fairy cult that thrived through all the arts in the middle of the 19th century, and so needs reckoning with. The odd thing is that it was addressed to adults and didn't become child-centred until later in the century. And, dwelling on these teeming scenes of fay life by such as Joseph Noel Paton and John Anster Fitzgerald, you can't help asking how seriously, with what kind of seriousness, they're to be taken.

Literal belief seems not to be the issue, though no doubt the thought that some people did be-

A feeling of intimate voyeurism is a big appeal of the genre

- the secret, transitory, trespassing glimpse that's likely to

fairies here are strictly imaginary;

indeed that's the main point of

them. They're mascots of The

Imagination, a way of showing

"Nay, thou shalt not rob life of its enchantment, O base utiliconsoling game of let's pretend. It was, to use that shifty modern idiom, a myth - a fiction with deep and varied satisfactions, erotic, parriotic and spiritual.

The Fairy was re-invented for the purpose. Blake and Fuseli (important progenitors, not in the show) had added butterfly and insect wings to the traditional little people, a graft from mythological representations of Psyche. The newly devised point-work of the ballet inspired their light, twinkle toes gait, very far from Yeats's thumpers. Theatre generally,

Dream or The Tempest. Most of

the earliest pictures feature

Oberon, Titania, Puck, Ariel

that the stage couldn't so eas-

ily manage: a feeling of intimate voyeurism - and that seems to

be one of the big appeals of the

world. There's an implied cry of through the pervading darkness, the delicacy with which the flora (a dew-dropped leaf, a tarian!" But it was more than a curling catkin) just touch the pool-smooth patch of ground these tentative devices match and stress the light tread of the fairy feet, and the brevity of the vision. Danby's low-down close-up

allows scale-jumps to go both ways. The people are little, but he's equally interested in vegetation that looks real but unnaturally magnified. So the supernatural is made one with a naturalist's close observation, and made persuasive. The effect is quite lost in Paton's populous, wide-view tableaux, where the emphasis is all on human scales. But there, like other painters, lieve in them helped the subject with its extravagant spectacles, he has fun. The fairies are

small, but then come in all sizes, and this lets him cram his scenes with proliferating, ever-minuter detail, like a fractal picture. which leaves the most patiently head-counting viewer – and you have to be that kind of viewer to enjoy his paintings at all - feeling that some really tiny ones have still escaped view. So, even though the rendering is very clearly realised. Paton can retain a sense of fairy clusiveness by making them vanishingly small.

But we'd be inclined to say that Pasustaining interest, and the genre's as a whole, is erotic. Fairies are a way of creating inno-

carry some conviction. But was a big influence, and specif-cent, low-gravity orgies, waves ically Shakespeare, the Shakeof closely thronging flesh. Of course fairies are traditionally speare of A Midsummer Night's sex-related - as in the Dream but it's disconcerting to see it pictured. There's something rather and company. But painting icky about a sex-object only a few could also convey something inches high (what do you do with it exactly? Just kind of finger it?) or in the idea of moving your hand through a cluster of minuscule, wriggling bodies, or being swarmed all over. When the subject is Titania's dallying with Bottom (in Landseer's picture, say) the fairy Queen is shown human size, so as to re-Royal Academy's show do this move these feelings; or, again, apparition effect very well, in dif- you can do a fairy just as a norin John Simmons's Titania). But often the artists seem to emphasise how one might feel danum hallucinations. A series about fairy bodies by giving of pictures has a sleeper (the them a not quite human anatomy - slightly elongated, tapering, but with very solid thighs. They want it both ways, dainty and voluptuous too, and you're

not quite sure if this is meant to be super-feminine or grotesque. The big change of gear comes with Fitzgerald, and although he's very weird, it's a less troubling weirdness, because much more explicit. His fairies aren't conceived as real, tangible bodies. They're overtly psychological - not literary or folkloric, but mind figments, the at play, not a perversely miniaproducts of bad dreams and lau-

something to indicate scale (as of moonlit stillness' from Francis Danby's 'Scene from A Midsummer Night's Dream' Tate Gallery, Oldham Art Gallery

artist or a young woman) troubled by impish visions, with the imagery drawing much on Bosch. The conception is avowedly sinister and grotesque, which actually diminishes both those qualities. And in his pure fairy scenes, spiky and luridly coloured, while he gets quite close to surrealists like Leonora Carrington, he also points to

the child's fairy. These creatures

are elaborately dressed from a

botanical costume box, and

their behaviour suggests children

acknowledged masterpiece, Richard Dadd's The Fairy Feller's Masterstroke, painted by the artist when he was confined in Bethlem asylum after murdering his father. It stays an extraordinary work, not very likeable, in fact extraordinary because so inhuman. It takes the stock accomplishments of fairy pictures - the play with scales, the obsessive detail - and pushes them to impossible extremes. The microscopic detailing seems to exceed the power of the human eye. The

Fairy painting produced one though seen by an actual wee has mixed something gritty into person. The cast of figures, some human-looking, others more or less grotesque - like the fairies with their elephantine calves, the elf whose features if in a distorting glass, and the grasshopper playing a trumpet - are observed with scary calm and normality.

And the paintwork is so richly and minutely textured as that could stand up to some to be almost low relief, giving striking reality effects. The veined leaf appears pressed against the picture surface, and blades of grass that spread like in the gravelly area at the fairya net over the scene are as feller's feet, it looks like Dadd

the paint to get the puckering. but I bet he brought up each tiny bobble individually with infinite care and a very fine brush. The picture does its are stretched and squashed as best to declare that it is no work of the imagination, neither seen by human eye nor painted by human hand - a fairy artefact itself. Believe it or not, it's the only painting in the show sharp practical criticism from

was a bigank which in. I lington, but school-

Wictorian Fairy Painting, at the Royal Academy to 8 February

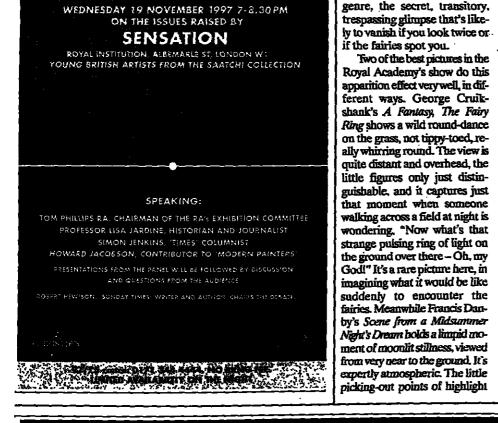
The Independ Selfridges For Gastronomic

1st December 7.30pm - 9.

the likes of Farmer Hogan.



3





was a bad girl, a blank who didn't fit in. I lied to my mum, bunked off school - and got discovered

The time: May 1994 The place: Hammersmith Tube station, London The woman: Shola Ama, singer

At fifteen, I was a bad girl hanging around with a lot of criminals. My boyfriends were stealing cars - I never got involved myself but when you're young, you're attracted to the excitement. I had a lot of trouble at school because I couldn't keep my mouth It was a real proper visit with me, his mum, shot. I would often get sent out of class for swearing at the teacher. I did some sad, sad ing food in restaurants - I hope those people won't remember me.

My mother is Dominican / St Lucian, she's black and my dad's Scottish and white. It was difficult growing up mixed race. I remember when I was really young, looking at the mirror and wondering if my skin colour would change when I'm older - will it finally decide what it wants to be? It felt like a really nothingness race to be - a blank. I felt really alone, I had cousins who were mixed race but they all looked Italian to me. I was the odd one out. People would ask, "Are you black or are you white?". I thought: "Why do I have to decide? I'm

My mum would play jungle and drum: and bass music while I locked myself in my a group called D'Influence I felt more at room with Mariah Carey - so she was listening to far hipper music than me! Pop music was a form of rebellion for me, because I've always wanted to be different. I my telephone number. It might have been used to get tapes and sing over them, forgetting completely that anybody else was on the track. That was how I started writing my own music.

thought it was time for a change. I had own to a prison to see somebody. Howev-Madonna everywhere: on the ceiling, on the er when I actually sat there, it was really chest of drawers, a bed cover, towels, cups sad - especially saying goodbye, knowing and everything. It was so embarrassing, so he was going back to his cell while I was I took the lot down, painted the room pis-going home.

tachio green and started to seriously get into music for the first time.

It is such a terrible story, but I can't lie; on the day that changed my life I bunked off school to go and see a guy in prison. My mum said: "If you miss school to see that criminal, that will be it. You will not go out for two months!" I got up and left the house at the normal time but went to see this boy's sister. I dressed up and she fixed my hair because I really fancied him. sister and best friend.

I was so excited about seeing him that things like getting drunk on cider and throw- on the way I started singing: "Fin going to see my boyfriend." As we went through the barrier at Hammersmith Tube station, I changed to "Anytime You Need A Friend" by Mariah Carey and the acoustics in the station meant my voice went round the tunnel. I wasn't showing off, I just loved the way it sounded.

A guy in a bright purple shirt, with dreads and chains came up to me and started looking down at me. I thought: "Who is this weirdo?" He stood there with his personal organiser, he bit his finger and was really unsure of what to do. He asked me to sing something else, but I was certain that he was a pervert who was trying to get my number! However, when he told me his name was Kwame and that he played with ease. I had seen them playing live at Wembley Arena as the support band for Michael Jackson, so I felt I could give him too trusting but I thought he couldn't kill me over the phone! I got on the train and forgot all about it.

I was more excited about visiting my When I was 15 I looked at my room and boyfriend, because I'd never been on my



Shola Arna: 'Fame makes it hard to have a relationship. If a man knows there's nothing he can do for Photograph: Andrew Buurman

I couldn't tell my mum that I met a guy who liked my voice because she would have quizzed me about why I wasn't at school. So I went to visit Kwame at his house and I still didn't tell my mum! I got round to telling her, three weeks later, when I recorded a demo. She was really shocked and couldn't believe it was me singing my own song.

Kwame and I started making demos and doing small showcase concerts. He wanted to call me Little Shola Ama. I told him I wouldn't stay little for long so we ditched that idea. A few people were buzzing about me and I was having meetings with record companies. On the very day I had a meeting with one of the important ones, which was just around the corner from my college, these girls happened to start a fight with me. It was so petty, it was over a chew-

keys. So I went to this meeting with scars all down my forehead. My manager was anxiously lying about it: "She had an accident in drama class - she fell off a ladder."

Finally there was a deal on the table for me at WEA, we signed it on my 17th birthday. Nothing happened for so long, it semed I was never going to get anywhere. It took until I was 18 before I had a hit with "You Might Need Somebody". It's just as well it took a while from when I was discovered to becoming successful because I had a lot of growing up to do.

Kwame is like a dad to me, and when I MOBO [Music of Black Origin] awards and told him I loved him, tears welled up in his eyes and he cried. We are very close.

people jumping on me and hitting me with is a bit of a disappointment. It would have left a big hole in my life if I hadn't understood when I was still quite young that I couldn't rely on him. You don't miss tomato ketchup if you've never tasted it, it's only when you've been used to having ketchup on your chips that you worry when it runs out. It makes me proud of what a good job my mother has made of bringing me and my sister up on her own. I know if the same happened to me, I could do it myself.

Fame has made it hard to have a relationship; it's hell. There's a lot of things people can't handle about my success, and a man wants to be a man. If he knows there won best newcomer and best R&B at the is nothing he could do for a woman that off school that day. she can't do for herself he feels insecure. The only thing left is to treat her like dirt. I have been in a few very bad relationships. I don't really have a relationship with Pye just come out of a relationship and that Baby?" and dua ing gum wrapper being thrown and hitting my real dad. He saw me as a tiny baby but was quite a sensitive one because I was ber she is headlining the Radio One sponone of their legs. Before I knew it I had six he hasn't done much for me since which opening up a bit. I cried a lot, I'm genuinely sored Rhythm Nation Tour.

quite gutted because everybody can have a lover but me! But I suppose at this stage I don't need a someone in my life who is sick of me not being there all the time. I can't go out with my boyfriend and just be myself, I have to be aware that there are people who might want to stop me for an autograph. Which would you rather have: a top 10 album and two top five singles or a boyfriend?

I never dreamed in a million years that I would have hits all over the world. Doing all of this has helped me find myself, I know what I want from life. I think my mother is genuinely happy that I bunked

Interview by Andrew G Marshall

Shola Ama's new single is "Who's Loving My

Their traumas, my trial - a Cheshire lawyer feels the pain of 220 children

Peter Garsden worked in Cheshire, in a mixed law practice. But for the last three-and-a-half years his work has been unmixed. He has become obsessed with the cases of victims of child abuse and, as Roger Dobson reports, the effect on his life has been shattering.

Peter Garsden answered a telephone call that was to change his life. At the time he was a partner in a Cheshire firm of solicitors specialising in personal injury, as well as the usual small town mix of cases and clients.

But the 32-year-old man on the other end of the telephone had an altogether different kind of story. He was a sexual abuse victim and was the first of more than 200 men and women who

It was just before midday on a were to allege they had been Tuesday morning in May when abused when they were in children's homes in the Northwest of England.

Three years on from that first phone call, Peter Garsden's life has been turned inside out. He has become obsessed with fighting for compensation for the 220 men and women whose vivid descriptions of the appalling abuse they suffered haunt him every day.

And the price of his obsession has been high. His marriage. is in difficulties, relationships with his two young daughters have changed, he suffers with depression, has sleeping problems and, on one occasion, broke down while making a speech about abuse to MPs.

Peter Garsden's experiences highlight the emotional strain faced by lawyers dealing with the rising tide of child abuse cases. Unlike victims, perpetrators, policemen and social workers. lawyers do not have access to counselling to help them cope.

Back in that spring of 1994, Mr Garsden appeared to have everything going for him. He was 37 and a partner in the firm of Abney Garsden McDonald which he had co-founded nine years earlier. He had a £200,000 house in Macclesfield, and was happily married with two young

girls, Vanessa and Alexandra. "Life was pretty good. The client who rang me that morning had been interviewed by the police as part of the North-west child abuse inquiry, and they had suggested he talk to a solicitor. That was my first contact with an abuse victim," he said.

That inquiry by Cheshire Police was to become Britain's biggest and iongest investigation into child abuse in children's homes with more than 2,000 former residents traced.

"The man told me that he had been abused sexually for of a young boy. How evil can three years while at the children's home by a care worker. the endless descriptions of the He found it very embarrassing,

and at that time, I did too." boy, who is now a practising ho-speech in one of the rooms and It was some months later, mosexual, was assaulted at a I had got to the part where I was when he became the lead sovery young age by a teacher who had venereal disease.

licitor in the group of lawyers representing around 220 victims of abuse, that the pressures began to mount when he read the statements of all the victims.

"As a professional you try to where it had been ripped and,



Peter Garsden: 'The case has taken so much out of me, I have neglected my own family' Photograph: Newsteam

been abused. The sheer horror

and brutality of that boy's life

"It became a struggle to re-

upset me enormously.

remain detached, but it is dif-unbelievably, he was sent back ficult with these cases. The psy- to the home where he had chological reports were the worst. It was distressing to read how a man could appear to be fine on the surface but underneath be a complete wreck with horrific symptoms of suicidal thoughts, self-mutilation, groups made up of people with and all the other trappings of a legacy of years of abuse.

Everything I read appalled a campaigner." me. At one of the homes, there He describes how he first rewas an allegation of physical toralised he had become emoture where a care worker had tionally involved when he went with pressure groups to lobby carved their name into the back people be? "Then there were most horrific sexual abuse. One

tims when I just seized up. "After he buggered the boy, "To me the most upsetting the youngster, who was very symptom is the man who has been abused, who knows that young at the time, was taken to hospital. His anus was sewn up some victims become abusers. and who will not go near his own

> them himself. As a father I find that very upsetting and I had got to that point in my speech when I was overcome with emotion and had to stop in mid-sentence. "I then had to stand back and take stock. I used to be the sort of person who could shut the

> > the office to bed until Monday morning. I was not a person who let things get to him, but this case has taken over my life. "My marriage has gone through trials and tribulations. My wife complains I work too much and although I don't drink very much, last year I went through a period when I was drinking more than normal. Janet and I have also started going to Relate. I feel the case has taken so much out of me I have neglected my family. "I look at my own children

describing the symptoms of vic-

children for fear he may abuse

door on a Friday night and put

in a different light. What I have read and heard over the last three years colours the relationship. When you play with them there is a flash in your mind and you remember what happened to children just like yours but who had the mistortune to be in a children's home."

Earlier this year his wife, Janet, who has been going to main completely objective. I became involved with pressure Relate for two months with her husband, sold her own busicauses to fight for, and their pasness in an attempt to solve the problems in the relationship. sion rubbed off on me: I became

She says that her husband has changed considerably in the last three years: "He used to come in at six o'clock. We all ate together and he'd tell funny sto-MPs at the House of Commons ries about what had happened seeking heavier sentences for in court or the office that day. When he got involved in this "I was making a prepared case he came home later and lat-

er, and when he did arrive he would either fall asleep or carry on working on the computer he had installed at home with a link to the office files.

"I tried to change to fit in with him. I sold my design business so that if he couldn't be there for the children, at least I was. Eventually I suggested we go to Relate, but he said there was nothing wrong. "It was only when I told him that I was thinking of leaving

that he agreed to go to Relate. We have had six sessions and I think we do communicate more. I was resentful that he was using up all the energy he had on other people and not on the family, but at the same time I am really very proud of what he is doing."

He accepts that he has changed and that his health has suffered too: "I get depressed and I am prone to lethargy. Apart from the case, it is a real effort to do anything else.

"There is no doubt it has

changed me. I don't do anything but abuse cases now, and if a new victim rings up, no matter how busy I am I will always spend as long as they want listening and talking because I now know how important it is to them and what an effort they have made to get that far."

Although many lawyers, ail too aware of the emotional risks involved, will avoid child abuse cases, Peter Garsden is adament he made the right decision, despite the toll on his personal life.

"I've never thought of giving it up, it is something I feel I have to do. People have a perception of lawyers as being only in it for the money, but we are not and we are affected by what we do just like anyone else.

"We have several years to go on this case yet, but we'll get there and the reward will be when we finally get the justice these young people deserve from a system that let them down so badly and so horrifically when they were children."

THE INDEPENDENT

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Could do better. The only educational policy worth the name is one that strives for all-round improvement, in attendance records, exam results, skills acquisition, and pupils' attitudes. Improvement is happening - praise where it is due to the heads, teachers, parents and pupils making the effort. But on the evidence of today's spread of data it is far too patchy.

These latest "league tables" are, or ought to be, a map for education's general staff. The military metaphor is apt; if not national survival then national prosperity, let alone social equanimity, depend on continuing improvement, espe-cially in the lower divisions. It's going to be a long march, too. If consistent improvement in exam results over the past three years is a fair test, then what we learn today is how few schools are on the upward curve. An improvement ratio of 5 per cent is not good enough - even if these tables are distorted by including those schools (mainly in the private sector) which are pretty much incapable of betterment.

Do the improving schools offer lessons for the rest? Among them the City Technology Colleges and the grant-maintained schools figure prominently. It would be churlish to deny that these Conservative innovations have been good for their parents and pupils, but equally it would be naive not to ask some searching questions about the policy of preference which has underpinned them. Material resources are part of their story. A new school is a solid basis for improvement. That pretty much sums up most CTCs, as they started life in the early 1990s. Grant-maintained schools in their early years enjoyed, gen-

erally speaking, favourable allocations. The difficulty is stripping out of this evidence the effect of schools' selection policies, however covert. Schools that select ought to score high on attainment tests. The London Oratory, to name a famous name, clearly chooses its pupils on the basis of aspiration and (parental) attitude if not formally on test scores. If it and grantmaintained schools like it had become

more selective in the past, that might explain higher attainment at 16- and 18-plus.

The key question behind all such educational data is whether a school is "adding value". Selectivity itself ought to be irrelevant to general measures of improvement, unless other schools are forced to enroll higher concentrations of children from the middle and lower ability bands. Educational progress rests on more schools doing better with unpromising material - using that phrase not in some sniffy sense, but as an accurate summation of the multiple barriers to learning among certain classes of pupils.

Only by raising performance among the ranks of children of mediocre ability will we raise the overall level of our educational standing. Bluntly, in the high skill working environment of the future, that is the only way those individuals are going to have any real prospect of prosperity and security. And it is prosperity and security that young people themselves mostly aspire to, according to the survey we are

DOES ANYONE

WANT TO

SEE MINE?

publishing this week, sponsored by the Industrial Society.

The most exciting findings of these tables come from Sheffield, Salford and Tower Hamlets in London from schools with unpromising catchments which are pushing up their results year by year. It is there that lessons are to be learnt. No school should ever be condemned to "sink" status, and the first task is identification. This map leaves Labour in no doubt about where policies to combat under-performance need to be focused. (A word or two of praise from Labour ministers for their Conservative predecessors for making this data possible would not go amiss, either.)

Take the tables on truancy. They make depressing reading. Truancy and social ex-clusion are close relations. Here is evidence that, for example, the City of Kingstonupon-Hull and Nottingham are failing to educate far too high a proportion of their young people. Is it a coincidence that the local authorities in those areas have re-

cently taken over administration of school from county councils? The centre does no only have to ask what the relevant coun cils are doing about non-attendance, but to collaborate in the task of getting children back, and cajole those who do not

eedom of

respond quickly enough. Ministers know that, in the end, they cannot run schools from the centre. Mal ing public examples of the heads of failing schools, while salutary, is only a last resort. The real business is done by building up an effective teaching team, bringing parents in, constructing an ethos of attainment, providing the kind of support that enables long-term improvement.

The people who can really change the system are already in it: teachers, and their head teachers. We must hope that they have collectively accepted the value of the kind of indicators published today, recognising, of course, that they are only one set of indicators among many. These lessons are not to be dismissed - they must be acted on, above all at school level.

LETTERS

THE DEBATE OVER PARTY FUNDING HOTS UP.....

I'LL SHOW YOU MINE IF YOU SHOW ME

YOURS!

Power to the GPs

Sir: The preview of the White Paper on the NHS (report, 12 November) suggests it will contain interesting and commendable plans. Replacement of GP fundholding with larger groupings of GPs is welcome, as is the idea of a budget combining hospital, primary and community care

This will indeed break down a "Berlin Wall" but it is a pity that the opportunity is not being taken to remove the other artificial barrier between purchaser and provider. This has no remaining purpose if the market is to go, and if it is retained so will be much of the market and its attendant bureaucracy.

The glaring omission is any reference to democratic accountability. There seems little point in reforming appointments to trust boards and health authorities on Nolan principles if 90 per cent of the budget (and therefore the power) is in the hands of GP collectives. To whom will the latter be responsible? Better to combine the GP collectives with the public health expertise of existing health authorities, which should have boards properly accountable to the people of the area.

Removal of competition between trusts probably removes the need for trust boards, with further savings. The tighter management from "the centre" which is envisaged as replacing that competition raises the question of where that managerial function will lie. It strengthens the argument for a powerful and accountable health authority. PETER FISHER

National Health Service Consultants' Association Great Bourton, Oxfordshire

Sir: The leaked White Paper on the future of the NHS suggests that a central concern for the new government is equality of

health care for all. A crucial starting point is fair distribution of NHS funds based on a careful statistical analysis of relative needs. As approximately 95 per cent of patient contact with healthcare services occurs in primary care, often the GP's surgery, it may surprise your readers to learn that the allocation of NHS funds to general practice has never been subject to any analysis at all.

Essentially the present "assumption" is that there are two levels of need: that patients older than 75 require twice as much care as those below that age.

The most elementary studies show that age alone is a crude measure of medical need, and even here ratios of demand rise from the age of 50 years to double by 65, treble by 75 and increase by four to six times

Relative to your needs, the older you become the less NHS funds your GP is given. Dr R C GILBERTSON Christchurch, Dorsel

Blair's apology

Sir: How refreshing to listen to Tony Blair, and read his apology over the Formula One scandal (report, 17 November). Politicians are human beings - although many of them try hard to conceal the fact. They are fallen, flawed and fal-

aura of perfection?

earn the respect of the British public with a two-minute honest apology than all his predecessors with their bluster and evasion of responsibility. HUGH J THOMSON Birmingham

Sir: I am a lifelong Labour supporter and I am dismayed at the appalling spectacle of our highminded leader squirming on the skewer of sleaze allegations.

At one level, the "cash for favours" row is nowhere near as bad as the financial scandals that rocked John Major's government - Labour is after all returning the Formula One money. At another level what one might almost call the spiritual level - it is far, far worse. Labour came to power on an anti-sleaze ticket. Tony Blair invited us to trust him

and we responded to his aplible like the rest of us. Why peal. It is too early to say we must they struggle to project an feel betrayed, but certainly our faith has been badly shak-Tony Blair has done more to en. It is like being in a marriage where all the evidence points towards our spouse's infidelity yet we still can't quite believe

In any case, if the Government isn't corrupt it has acted with scarcely believable incompetence in allowing itself to be presented as corrupt. The Prime Minister must resolve never to allow anything like this

to happen again. STUART RUSSELL Poulton, Gloucestershire

Unliberated gays

Sir: Kathy Marks cannot be allowed to claim (Features, 11 November) that "after three decades of campaigning, many of the [lesbian and gay] legal battles have been won and remaining inequalities look set to

be tackled by the Labour government".

Those three decades have brought nothing but failure on the legal front. In England in 1967 there was a higher age of consent for gay men. If a man and a woman had sex in public, the charge was "indecency". if two men, "gross indecency".

If three people (male and female) had sex together, it was a party. If three gay men had sex together it was a criminal

It was not "unfair dismissal" to sack someone for being gay. Homosexual partners had no visiting rights in hospitals and no rights to inherit on an intestate death; nor could they contract a civil partnership contract the way heterosexuals

What has changed? The armed forces law has been relaxed. A gay soldier is now "merely" sacked without compensation; he is no longer im-

prisoned as well. But the Tories made it illegal for local councils to fund gay activities and censorship of gay publications

is stricter now than 20 years ago. What will Labour do about any of this? On the important civil liberties issue of the age of consent, it plans to allow a free vote. It refuses to touch the criminal prohibition, for example, on three people having

We have never been had so good. MICHAEL MASON

London SW7 **BZW** deal

Because of a production error, the following letter was omitted from early editions yesterday.

Sir. You published an article on 14 November purporting to describe a video conference of our managing directors that took place the previous day.

Policing protesters Sir: On Saturday I attended the anti-National Front demonstration in Dover. When I walked into the park with two friends we were confronted by police. They told us we had to have a comprehensive bodysearch and give our names, addresses and personal details for their files, although we had broken no law. I was told I would be arrested if I left without com-

Eventually a sergeant told me I needn't give my details, but I still had to be searched. Not wanting to be unreasonable, and having nothing to hide, I agreed. The officer who searched me scrutinised every scrap of paper in my wallet, passing items to his colleague, who copied down personal details. When I asked what sort of offensive weapon he expected to find there he replied, with a straight face, "razor blades". All the while our faces were being videoed by a police camera team.

The police said all this was "for your own protection". When I want police protection I'll ask for it.

We were not a gang of tat-, tooed, knife-toting skinheads. We are short, bespectacled rather feeble-looking specimens – a PhD student, a school teacher and a care worker. DAVID TURNER

Borden, Kent

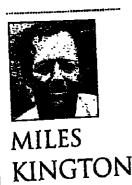
Black angels

Sir: Trevor Phillips ("Black Angels?", 15 November) mentioned Aretha Franklin and her right to a place in heaven. He ought also to have mentioned Roberta Flack. Way back in 1969 her debut album First Take included the song "Angelitos Negros", and she is quoted in the sleeve notes: Painters, why do you always paint white virgins? Paint beautiful black angels." SANDRA BROWNE HART

Everywhere

Sir: It is the word "absolutely" that is ubiquitous (letter, 14 November). Just listen to any interview. BERNICE PEDGLEY Wallingford, Oxfordshire

More of the proverbial from Albania: plenty of wit, not a lot of wisdom



today, from the Great Book of Albanian Proverbs which I am slowly translating in my declining years. Albanian proverbs, if you have never come across them before, are exactly the opposite of ours. Ours are short, pithy and fairly useless until you start thinking about them; Albanian proverbs sound fairly deep and meaningful unless you start thinking about them.

Here goes, then, with some meretricious wit and wisdom!

Never ask a Formula One Grand Prix racing driver to teach you the technique of reversing a car.

If birds were able to talk, would they both-

It's time for more Albanian proverbs man delivers it? When it is opened and read? Or when it is answered?

A lift spends 50 per cent of its time going up and 50 per cent of its time going down. but from the name it is given in all countries - ascenseur, elevator, lift, etc - you would deduce that it could only go up, not

Nobody knows all the words of his own national anthem.

You can get sea-sick in a set of revolving doors, but you can't cross to France in them.

All parrots think they are teaching us to say "Pretty Polly" or "Who's a pretty girl then?" When they think we have mastered the phrase, they give up. But we don't see it that way. We think that parrots lose the When does a letter arrive? When the post-knack of talking, whereas all that has

happened is that they have given up teach-

Who will send the Queen a telegram when she is 100? Nobody ever really believes he is going to

die. If they did, they would be working on their dying words now.

There is only one thing worse than a hymn, and that is a Christmas carol.

Aeroplane disaster movies are never shown as in-flight entertainment on aeroplanes. It is the only good thing to be said about air travel.

It would be easier to take the single currency seriously if the word "euro" wasn't pronounced quite differently in every

If we are ever invaded by aliens who feed on electricity, we will be sorry that we left our pylons unguarded.

PRIESTLEY

Let us set the record straight.

agreed to acquire the Euro-

pean equity and investment

banking business of BZW,

which we regard as a high-qual-

ity and complementary addi-

tion. We are also conscious of

the hard work and substantial

investment needed to inte-

grate the two firms successful-

ly. Your partisan references to

glorying, boasting and the like

are mischievous and danger-

You claim we forecast

"mass [back-office] sackings".

This is wholly untrue. We ex-

pect to employ several hundred

BZW back-office staff whose

skills we greatly value. Indeed,

our need for the relevant back-

office staff was a specific con-

dition set by us during the

negotiations.

STEPHEN HESTER

Chief Financial Officer

Credit Suisse First Boston

We are pleased to have

People are sometimes described as natural blondes and sometimes as natural brunettes, but nobody is ever described as naturally bald.

Woe betide the substitute who scores a goal in his first game, for much will be expected of him.

Angling must be one of the most feminine activities in the world. It is quiet, organised and moderately healthy, and requires endless patience. Why are all anglers men, then? Because all sensible women also think it is entirely pointless.

If I had been condemned to death in the

Middle Ages, and had been given the choice of the method of execution, I hope I would have had the presence of mind to ask to be electrocuted.

There are two kinds of people who make jokes about their cheques possibly bouncing - those who are quite sure their cheques won't bounce and those who are quite sure they will.

The man who sneers at take-away food will happily go out on a picnic, and the man who passionately defends live entertainment is furious whenever a cinema is turned into a bingo hall.

An after-dinner speaker: One who would willingly do the speaking for half the money if he could be allowed to miss the

hat a gentil

17/COMMENT

Freedom of information gets caught in the spin



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DONALD MACINTYRE NOT-SO-OPEN GOVERNMENT

Most of what Tony Blair apologised for on Sunday had to do with information. In hindsight, he didn't think that it was a good idea to dribble out the facts about Bernie Ecclestone's £1m donation to the Labour Party, under pressure, and at the rate of one new fact a day. (He was right.) And hey, yes, of course he was prepared to publish the note taken of his meeting with the Formula One boss. No problem - except that here the Prime Minister issued an interesting caveat. Not once but twice. This wasn't, he emphasised, to be regarded as a precedent. Otherwise, as he pointed out, "people will be asking me to publish everything". Perfectly sensible, of course; civil servants, and quite a lot of other people, would be understandably horrified if they thought that every time the Prime Minister got some bad headlines he was planning to publish details of his recent private meetings to still doubts of any jiggery-pokery. But could it also just be that a corner of his subconscious mind was focused on quite an intense debate going on in the higher reaches of government over just how much it should be prepared to disclose about its internal deliberations?

For negotiations on next month's Freedom of Information White Paper are coming to a head. This is a big step. At the most unglamorous level, next year's Bill will underpin existing rights, and afford some new ones, to information about the sort of humdrum administrative decisions that don't make headlines but matter intensely to ordinary people. Why hasn't Medicine X been banned? Why hasn't Community Centre Y been granted a drinks licence? Why has new development Z been given the go ahead on my doorstep? What does the environmental inspection report really say about the chemical factory at the end of my road? It should widen the right of access to those of your nersonal files held by - for example - the DSS or the Inland Revenue or the Police, which are not on computer and therefore not covered by the Data Protection Act. It will also give new force to the obligations imposed on departments by the non-statutory Code of Access to Government Information, established by John Major's government. It will probably create a new Information Commissioner who will be able to weigh any possible damage from a particular application for disclosure against the public interest. And it will extend the obligations to local authorities and dozens of powerful quangos and nationalised industries. So, surely, a liberal culturechanging measure in all respects?

Well, all but one, actually. For ministers have now started to bank at the prospect of even a heavily qualified right to see information in the category of exemption described in the Major code as "internal discussion and advice". Which means pretty well every piece of paper, however impersonal, that passes around Whitehall in the run-up to a decision. The majority on the committee appear to have accepted the hoary

der the Freedom of Information Act of any advice drawn up by officials will, in the words of the Major code, "inhibit the frankness and candour of internal discussion". But even the Tory Cabinet Office minister Roger Freeman made it clear that if the harm from disclosure was outweighed by the public interest, then such material could, at least in theory, be published. The fear among liberals now is that when the code, or rather a version of it, becomes statutory, the whole category of such information will be subject to blanket exclusion. So in one respect the new bill would actually be less progressive than the much derided Major code.

Now the "candour" argument should be taken with a large pinch of salt. Nobody seriously believes - say - that anyone is going to be required to disclose a minute from onathan Powell, Chief of Staff, to the Prime Minister saying: "I know it's nuisance but we've got to see Bernie Ecclestone because we're into him for a million and it's the least he expects"; or alternatively one in which he says: "For God's sake don't see Ecclestone. This will be trouble which will only blow up in your face." But Action on Smoking and Health, or anyone else for that matter, might reasonably at some point in the future ask to see the analysis of the policy options made in October/November 1997 on whether or not to support the exemption, including the DTI's analysis of how many and what sort of jobs would have been lost if Formula One went out of the country. That sort of subsequent disclosure doesn't compromise civil servants; but it may well make for better decisions. And while we're about it, who would have been damaged by publication of the Treasury's long and thoughtful look at itself last year? It was the fact of the leak, and not the content, which made it a sensation.

In Australia senior civil servants were deeply worried about precisely the "candour" issue. Since the Freedom of Information Act there, they have admitted it hasn't been a problem. All sorts of other arguments will be used in favour of the restrictive, conservative approach. One is the cost of dealing with FOI applications though this could be allayed by charging a higher differential rate for business applicants and, perhaps, diverting some of the Government's press and publicity officers to Freedom of Information duties. Nor, by the way, are we talking about immediate disclosure. It wouldn't even affect the new higher art form of democracy, news management. In most countries where there is an act, the commissioner or his equivalent routinely rules against disclosure on "harm" grounds if it would affect an issue then in the headlines. Any Information Commissioner is bound to weed out the material that compromises civil servants or undermines collective Cabinet responsibility.

The most interesting question may be

which way Lord Irvine, who is chairing the committee, leans. At present, according to some accounts, Jack Straw is influential at the hawkish end of the argument on the committee, a rather lonely David Clark at the other. Mr Clark, regularly tipped as a Cabmet casualty, and with an unnecessary penchant for first-class air travel, may not be the most charismatic of politicians. But that doesn't necessarily make him wrong. Unless the Bill holds out the possibility for publication, in due time, of some internal advice, it will miss a big opportunity for an incremental but worthwhile government reform; it will also mean that ministers will come under continuing and tiresome pressure to do more. For what a more open regime - allowing publication of limited policy discussion within the lifetime of an administration. rather than when 30 years have elapsed - may well help to achieve is better, more thoughtful, government. And, funnily enough, good old argument that the possible release un-

In markets, the worst rarely happens. But don't count on it



ANDREAS WHITTAM **SMITH INFERNAL MACHINES**

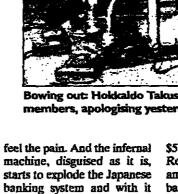
Finally, the bad news from the world's financial markets has got to me. I didn't worry in October, when the newspapers were full of articles demonstrating the uncanny similarity between current conditions and those of October 1987, the last occasion when the world's stockmarkets fell out of bed. Nor was I alarmed when a copycat shakeout duly appeared, right on cue. Since then, after all, Wall Street and London and the main European bourses have regained some of the ground they gave up.

Until now, I have shrugged off Thailand's banking crisis. In the case of Indonesia, I have been unmoved by the massive support package which the International Monetary Fund has had to make available. The fact that poor President Suharto has had to close down banks owned by his relatives I found perversely encouraging. I accepted the comment fro a an economist in Singapore who was quoted as saying that "the Indonesian Government seems very much committed to the reform package and things should move along".

But then I perceived a dangerous phenomenon which occasionally appears in the financial markets. I call it an "infernal machine", in the dic-- an apparatus, usually disguised, for producing an explosion to destroy life or property. This is a good description of what is happening to Japanese banks. They are being destroyed.

What is the infernal machine which is responsible? A substantial part of the reserves of Japanese banks comprises shares in Japanese companies. As the Japanese stockmarket has deteriorated, dropping by a quarter since June, so the reserves that Japanese banks hold have shrunk. By law, however, Japanese banks are required to maintain their resources at a level sufficient to repay depositors should there be unusual demands for cash.

Sensing this squeeze, investors in Japanese shares have grown frightened and sold more shares. The stockmarket falls again. The squeeze intensifies. The banks call in their loans. Their customers begin to



Just as I was reflecting on this mechanism, there came the news of the collapse of Japan's tenth largest bank, Hokkaido Takushoku. Yesterday the bank announced that it was going out of business. Here was the test. Only governments have the power to break the vicious circle. What would the Japanese government do? It decided to protect depositors by advancing funds for that purpose alone. In relief the Japanese stockmarket registered big

property, in the sense that the

value of all assets declines

But this is the single response that governments can make to such a crisis. Even if they have to print banknotes, they can make sure that depositors are repaid. They cannot do much about the other ill consequences. They cannot overnight restore a healthy banking system which provides working capital for successful companies and finance for international trade. They cannot prevent the substantial slowing down in economic activity that a banking crisis necessarily entails.

Asia where banks have developed weaknesses and started to rock on their foundations - in an area stretching from South Korea via Hong Kong (which has witnessed sporadic panic withdrawals of deposits) through Thailand and Malaysia, and down to Indonesia - governments are not behaving as decisively as the Japanese. In Indonesia, where 16 private banks have recently failed, individual depositors and businesses can only retrieve

Moreover, in the rest of

\$5,700 from their accounts. Repayment of additional amounts must wait until the bank's assets are sold off which may take years and yield little. It is because of developments like this that an entire economic region, until recently so vibrant, one of the motors of the world economy, is losing

Panic, we know, is contagious. Even so, I have been surprised to find how badly South America has been affected by what is happening in Asia. The trading links between the two regions are not particularly close. In fact the virus has been carried across the Pacific by international investors. Weakness in Asia's fabled economies has been taken as a signal to get out of South America's more pedestrian business sectors. The effects have been dramatic and disturbing.

Last week the Brazilian stockmarket dropped 10 per cent in a single day, bringing the cumulative decline to 40 per cent in three weeks. The government has responded with the familiar medicine, which makes the patient feel much worse in the initial stages. It has doubled interest rates, cut government spending and increased taxes. Brazil, one of the biggest economies in the world, plays a pivotal role in South America. For example it takes half of

Argentina's exports. But something even more worrying happened at the same time. The countries that make up the South American trade group (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay) raised their external tariff from 12 per cent to 15 per cent in response to the turmoil in world markets. Were they affected by the clear sign, given by the American congress ten days ago, that it



Bowing out: Holdcaldo Takushoku Bank president Sadamasa Kawatani (third from right) with other board Photograph: Reuters members, apologising yesterday following the collapse of their Japanese bank

had lost its appetite for promoting free trade, when it refused to give President Clinton the negotiating authority he requires, the so-called fast track legislation? Do not forget that high trade barriers were a major factor in the Depression of the 1930s. However, I am glad to say that no signs of panic can be

found in North America and Europe. Admirable sang froid is being displayed by everybody, from the chairman of the US Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, down to the humble investor. It is, of course, the invariable response of governments to crises to say that there is no crisis. In testimony to Congress, Mr Greenspan went even further, saying that the difficulties that had created such volatility in stockmarkets around the world could even benefit the United States by helping in a small way to suppress inflation. And then the chairman summarised his thinking in the form of a striking double negative: "To date. the direct impact of these developments on the American economy has been modest, but it can be expected not to be neg-

Not negligible; I can accept

that judgement so long as the infernal machine demolishing the Japanese banking system can be stopped. For it has an even more dreadful power to wreak damage. It can work internationally. Suppose the Japanese stockmarket reverses this week's gains and begins to sink again. As a result the shortage of bank credit for companies outside the first league, and the absence of liquidity for institutions with large stockmarket holdings, would grow more acute. At this point they might begin to sell part of their massive holdings on Wall Street, where they have huge profits, magnified by currency movements, ripe for the taking. This is how it works. Japanese investors sell a bit of their American portfolios. Wall Street prices fall. The Japanese investors think that they had better burry up. They sell some more stocks. And so on The infernal machine is once again destroying value.

Alarmist? Undoubtedly. Will it happen? Probably not; the worst rarely happens. All the same, Japanese investors were net sellers of foreign stocks and bonds in September. That is one more reason why I have started to worry.



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What a gentile can learn from a Jewish joke



McDONALD MINORITY **STRATAGEMS**

Tired of domestic Sturm und Drang? Why not see how your neighbours manage things.

in Alabama this month, the courts outlawed Christian prayers in schools. The protests have been noisy and embittered. The Antichrist is abroad insists the fundamentalist Christian Coalition. The ruling is a rallying point for extremists, who frame their propaganda as defying an wareasonable assault on the

freedom to worship, but whose spiritual forefathers deployed the rack and flame. TV screens are filled with images of children praying in public, while their parents lament their inability to do so in school. Alan Dershovitz, the

renowned Harvard law professor, scents trouble. Pavour the majority in as explosive an arena as religion, and you sow the seeds for downgrading, distancing, expelling, exiling the minority - and reaping the dragon-toothed lawlessness of terrorism. Concocted problems encourage dangerous solutions. And his family, along with millions of others around the world, know directly how cataclysmic a "solution" can be.

We Jews made up 4 per cent of the population (in the US 10 years ago. By the end of the decade we'll be 2 per cent. Early in the new millennium, we'll make up just 1 per cent. And we think we can afford to be divided amongst

ourselves?" Dershovitz, epitomised to the point of caricature as the fast taikin', high carnin', selfpromotin' liberal celebrity New tween liberal and orthodox. I have always smiled tolerantly York lawyer, is addressing a gathering of New Yorkers, assembled in a vast airy Upper West Side synagogue to hear him debate what it means to be Jewish, with another bright, shining star of East Coast intellectual Jewry, David Mamet.

Dershovitz, now beloing out the defence team on the Woodward appeal, in addition to his regular workload, plus 13 probono cases ("I never turn down a capital case - never!") is doing nothing on this November afternoon to dilute his coast-tocoast notoriety for overstepping the mark. "Two Jews sitting in a café in Vienna in 1938 - one's reading his community paper. he sees his friend reading the vilest anti-Semitic rag in the city. Why are you reading that trash?' 'It makes me feel better about myself. Your paper all you read is what we lost, how we failed, how we're repressed. This paper - it says the Jews run everything! The banks, big busi-

ness, international trade ..." I blench, but I'm beguiled. My neighbours laugh. It's what they came for. As the tussie be-

wings for the heart of Jewry takes hold on both sides of the Atlantic, the community's public figures find their utterances pored over for oracular significance. Jokes define and position as much as affirmations of faith.

The two men are now taking questions, and the majority are pitched at Dershovitz, who has stolen the show with his pace and wit. Mamet, so true on the page, stage and screen in his authentic reproduction of the numberless inarticulate dialects of North America, turns out to be endearingly hesitant in his very own. Dershovitz, in contrast, has not only a considered answer for each point. he gift-wraps it with jokes, oneliners and parables. Dershovitz broadcasts his

own kind of assimilation. La lone Gentile in this congregation, a minority within a minority, think he means, honour your own beliefs and be secure enough in them to respect others' differences, the better to promote their respect for yours. And I'm comfortable with that, I think, Raised within the faith of the majority, on the "rest". I feel comfortable enough here today, distanced from the dispute that occupies this assembly.

So why is this liberal dealing in ethnographic statistics? What kind of racial protectionism has invaded the philosophy of this man who asserts that "the moment you convert to Judaism, you were at Sinai - you were always a Jew?? I thought for a moment he might be advocating quotas and ideal proportions in a city whose schools cater for the needs of the young speakers of over a hundred native tongues. But in fact he is warning against the stockade mentality that envelops much of America. He has confidence that no matter how small his minority, it can still make positive contributions to the larger society.

He might, I realise, have quoted another notorious Jew from times past, but not even his chutzpah runs to ironically invoking the challenge issued in another great temple in a disputed land: "Render unto Caesar ..." The message is ancient, but new-minted daily in the US. Do not confuse faith and state. That way lies institutionalised intolerance and the seeds of self-destruction. And demonstrating and practising division within your own faith weakens it, as surely as the extremists hope to strengthen it. But back home, this is a mes-

sage that seems inadequate to the challenges of the Old World. Around the Mediterranean, administrations have become tainted with the violence of extremism they failed to quench. Indulging certain minorities has not created broad. tolerant churches. And in the certily clean

streets of cosmopolitan Upper Manhattan, mysteriously cleansed of panhandlers and bums by mayor Giuliani's Republican guard, there is a misleading sense of well-being that makes rueful mockery of Dershovitz's witty warnings.

I want to ask him whether he would unquestionably defend an avowed anti-Semite on a charge of race-motivated murder. But, a minority within a minority, I am dumb.

John Carswell was one of that dying breed, a man of letters. His scholarship was prodigious, his writing elegant, his life devoted to learning and literature.

His passion for education ranged from his work in the 1960s in the Department of Education and Science, when he was deeply involved in the expansion of new universities, to his reading of the classics at the family dinner table - no visiting child was exempted, but was given a quick résumé to date of the Dickens, Conan Doyle or Mark Twain in progress, before being plunged into the next instalment.

The son of the barrister and writer Donald Carswell, and the writer Catherine Carswell, he was born in Holly Bush House, in Hampstead, north London, next door to the historic Holly Bush pub. It was the heyday of "literary Hampstead" and young John grew up at the heart of it, with D.H. Lawrence, Katherine Mansfield and John Middleton Murry, Ivy and Max-

im Litvinoff frequent visitors to the Carswell home. Catherine Carswell's close friendship with D.H. Lawrence was pivotal to both their lives and they exchanged hundreds of letters letters which she, after Lawrence's death, sold for £400 to pay for her son's schooling.

He went to Merchant Taylors' School, then St John's College, Oxford, and from 1940 to 1946 served in the army in India, lanthe Elstob, who had been Carswell's Hampstead childhood sweetheart, was working there for the Ministry of Information and in September 1944 they were married in Old Delhi. They returned in 1946 to live for a while with his mother in Camden Town - after her husband's death, chronically short of money. Catherine Carswell had been living in a windowless boiler-room, stoking the boiler in return for lodging, and the flat where the young Carswells started their married life was hardly more salubrious. In 1946, Carswell entered

the Civil Service, and worked in the new Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance, playing an active part in the launching of the Beveridge Report and consistently concerned with providing a better deal for the aged. In the 1960s his efforts were concentrated on the Department of Education and Science, and in the 1970s he was secretary of the University Grants Committee: university financing was a subject be cared about deeply, and his book Government and the Universities in Britain - Programme and Performance 1960-1980 was

published in 1985. When he retired from the Civil Service in 1978 Carswell was appointed Secretary of the British Academy and held the post for five years, travelling all over the world on the academy's behalf. It was during the time that Isaiah Berlin was president and the two men were close friends, hunching together regularly until very recently when both suffered declining health.

Throughout his career Cars-

well distinguished himself as a writer and historian. His book The South Sea Bubble, published in 1960, was said by A.L. Rowse to be the best onthe subject: The Descent on England (1969) was praised by Hugh Trevor-Roper for its scholarship and political understanding; and From Revolution to Revolution (1973) was described by the Times Literary Supplement as a "tour de force". His life of Algernon Sidney, The Porcupine, was published in 1989, a memoir of by Litvinoff in 1983, and in 1992 he published The Saving of Kenwood. the result of years of research into the preservation of one of Britain's most famous open spaces - a subject dear to his Hampstead heart. He was a prolific reviewer for the TLS. and his brilliant insider's review of the television programme Yes, Minister, when it was at the height of its success in the 1980s, will go down in the journal's history.

friendship, many of his friends dating back to school or Oxford days. With one fellow undergraduate, now professor of philosophy at Oxford, Sir Peter Strawson, he had two permanent annual fixtures: one was a walking and talking holiday, the other a battle with lead toy soldiers played at the Carswells' cottage in Berkshire - a game that took two full days each year to complete and had

Carswell had a gift for



A Hampstead heart: Carswell at Kenwood, 1992

rules so complex that only two giant intellects could have

invented or understood it. John Carswell was a great traveller and an inspirational guide to his family, even if his insistence on clinging to out-ofdate guidebooks could lead to trouble: on one famous occasion an 1890 edition Baedeker resulted in the family checking into what had been a hotel, but was now a residential home for the infirm. Wherever he travelled, he was always glad to get home to Hampstead, and it was here that his energies were fo-

cused in the last decade of his life: he fought almost singlehanded the battle to save Branch Hill, 12 acres of land abutting Hampstead Heath. from development. His victory was a triumph, the climax of a lifelong love of the place where he was born. He was chairman for two years of the Heath and

its vice-president. His battle against philistinism was tempered by an impish wit and courtly good

Old Hampstead Society, one of

the oldest preservation soci-

eties in the country, and became

manners. Slightly pedantic in style, with a gentle charm, he nevertheless pursued what he saw as good causes with terrier-like tenacity. Earlier this year, he edited and had published a new edition of Lying Awake, the unfinished autobiography of his mother. which had first been published

in 1950. He had done everything he wanted to do, and during the last months of his life he talked to everyone who had been important to him. He left his house in order.

Lady Tryon Charles, whose godfather is

the Prince of Wales. Twins fol-

It was at this stage, on a

stopover in Hong Kong on her

way to visit her mother, that

Dale Tryon met a Hong Kong-

based American designer, Di-

ane Fries, whose speciality was

a one-size-fits-all, uncrushable,

drip-dry, elasticised-waist dress.

Tryon considered it perfect for

the expanding figure, and agreed

to be Fries's agent in the UK.

ples in a suitcase, and set up

premises with another agent in

Great Titchfield Street, the

fashion trade area just north of

Oxford Street. The dresses sold

well and Tryon went on to be-

come a designer with her own

label, printing her own polyester

georgette in Japan, and man-

ufacturing clothes in Hong

Kong. The Prince of Wales's

nickname for her, Kanga, be-

came first a label and later, in

1983, the name of her shop in

Seven years later she

launched the Dale Tryon counture

label with a selection of Italian

and French textiles. In addition

to showing her collection from

her showroom, she exhibited at

the biannual trade shows at

Olympia and Birmingham and

at times enjoyed an annual

turnover of more than film.

Thanks in part to her business

success the family were able to

move from Oghury House at

Great Durford near Salisbury

back to the estate's Old Manor

House, which had previously

been run as a girls' school by the

Both the Kanga and Dale

Tryon collections were shown at

high-profile charity events such

as the Berkeley Hotel Debu-

tante Ball, the Fleur de Fleur

luncheons at the Dorchester

and the White Dove Ball at the

Savoy. The latter two were in aid

of the Royal Marsden Cancer

Appeal, in which Tryon had become involved thanks to a fel-

low Australian, the Melbourne-

born Lady Buckinghamshire.

She also organised several balls

in aid of Sane, the mental health

charity. By this time she was re-

ceiving treatment from the Roy-

The spirited and courageous

dowager Dreda, Lady Tryon.

Beauchamp Place.

She returned with 20 sam-

lowed four years later.

Dale Elizabeth Harper, dress designer: born Melbourne, Australia 3 January 1948; married 1973 Anthony Tryon (succeeded 1976 as Baron Tryon; two sons, two daughters); died London 15 November 1997.

The Australian dress designer Dale Tryon was both a colourful figure in royal court circles and a vibrant and successful businesswoman in the treacherous waters of the international fashion world. From the early 1980s her clothes were sold in shops from England to America to Australia, France and Spain, and her own boutique in Knightsbridge was later joined by branches in Salisbury, Hong Kong and Dublin.

She was born Dale Harper in Melbourne in 1948, the daughter of a wealthy printing magnate. Barry Harper. As a child she suffered for many years from paralysis and spina bifida, which she fought off successfully, the first of many health problems which were to plague her life.

It was in 1966 that she first met the young Prince Charles at a school dance when he was a pupil at the Geelong Grammar School in Victoria, Her early jobs in Melbourne included a brief stint as a reporter for the society pages of the Australian Women's Weekly. In 1969, when she came to London, she worked for the London office of the Women's Weekly in Fleet Street.

A pretty, spirited and vivacious blonde, she had a strong sense of fashion and although living on a strict budget could still be persuaded by the redoubtable Lady Rendlesham to spend a little in the sales at the Yves Saint Laurent Rive Gauche shop which opened in New Bond Street in 1969.

Dale kept in close touch with her sister Cherie, who was an air stewardess with Alitalia and flew regularly between England and Australia. One of Cherie's friends in Melbourne, Patricia Tryon, gave the girls a letter of introduction to her brother. Authony Tryon, a merchant hanker at Lazards.

al Marsden for uterine cancer. After a couple of years of temping in London, Dale preand had also undergone major pared to return to Australia, but surgery on her back. on the eve of her departure An-Dale Tryon was on a heavy dose thony Tryon proposed to her of painkillers, and the unwise over lunch. He then flew half way round the world to ask for consumption of vodka and champagne led to further tragher father's permission to marry. Tryon's father had been ic events. Last year, while Keeper of the Privy Purse, and undergoing treatment for adhe himself had been a page to diction at the Farm Place Clinic. she fell from a first-floor the Queen, so the wedding in 1973 took place in the tiny window, broke her back and Chapel Royal in St James's became paralysed. Palace. A daughter, Zoe, was



born a year later, followed by

misery when her husband of nearly 25 years wanted a divorce. She flew to Australia to be with her mother, Jean Harper, and from there to Delhi for homeopathic treatment by Dr Mosarif Ali, who was introduced to her by the Prince of Wales. The decree nisi was pronounced on 1 September and she was still waiting for the decree absolute when she entered the London Clinic a week ago. Lord Tryon, their four children, and her brother Derek Harper, were

Christopher Sturman

Christopher John Sturman local historian: born Louth, Lincolnshire 4 September 1950: died Colchester, Essex 3 November 1977.

The Lincolnshire scholar Christopher Sturman was one of the last Romantics, born a generation out of his time. His natural habitat was the world of John Piper, John Betjeman and Geoffrey Grigson - all strong influences upon him and all imbued as he was with a sense of place, the glamour of landscape and locality. An Easter sepulchre in Nottinghamshire, a round churchyard in Norfolk, the lonely skies over Spurn Point - all became infused with his own imagination, became emblems of a sort of embattled Englishness.

Editor of the Journal of the Society of Lincolnshire History and Archaeology since 1988, and co-editor (and founder) of Lincolnshire Past and Present since 1990, he was active in many areas of Lincolnshire life, his publications ranging from work on the formation of the salt-marshes to the introduction of the daguerreotype



Sturman: 'a flypaper mind'

into Lincolnshire, and including a book on the poetry of the Tennyson family. During the last stages of his illness he was still dictating material for a forthcoming study of the 19thcentury painter William Brown and his great Panorama of Louth, the painting which hangs in the Council Chamber at

Sturman was born in Louth in 1950 to a Norfolk father and a Lincolnshire mother; his sense of rootedness was, perhaps, paradoxically sharpened by a typical RAF childhood, spent variously in Singapore, at Winthorpe, near Newark, at Swanton Morley, Norfolk, and at Leconfield, near Beverley in East Yorkshire. At 11 he was sent to board at Alfred, Lord Tennyson's old school, the King Edward VI School in Louth, where his intellectual curiosity he had, he used to say, a "flypaper mind" - one to which facts adhered effortlessly. In Louth he fell under the spell of Lincolnshire's salt-marsh landscape and, after a degree in Geography, at Christ's College, Cambridge, he began doctoral research at Queen Mary College, London, into the evolution of landscape.

During this period, Sturman also worked in the Lincolushire Records office and it was here that material was available to whet his omnivorous appetite in other ways. He began a survey of the development of sunbathing on the Lincolnshire coast. This led him back to Tennyson, who spent childhood holidays at Mablethorpe, and to that vast Lincoln treasurehouse, the Tennyson D'Eyncourt letters. In the Bodleian Library he discovered the diaries of John Rashdell. friend of Tennyson, who became enbury Memorial Lecture to the Tennyson Society. Book-collecting (bibliophil-

ia verging on bibliomania) became a lifelong passion. He read widely, particularly topowas already much in evidence; graphical poetry, and became an authority on minor Lincoinshire verse and on the regional novel in Lincolnshire. He always preferred byways to highways, in literature as in travelling, and was much inspired by W.G. Hoskins' Lost Villages of England. His most prized discovery (in an Uppingham bookshop) was an edition of Tennyson's Poems Chiefly Lyrical inscribed in the poet's own cramped hand.

From the mid-1980s, there was a flood of publications - on matters musical (Thomas Haxby and organ music, with J.C. Pillans), medical (Edward Tennyson and the Victorian treatment of madness), architectural (19th-century building in Louth), climatological ("the drought summer of 1826" in Lincolnshire Life), historical (Wolley Jolland, the "Louth hermit"), topographical (the medieval manor at Belleau) and geographical (salt-making on

the subject of his 1982 Brack- the Lindsey marshland) - as role of the local historian well as articles on the Tennyson circle, many published in the Tennyson Research Bulletin.

In 1992 he edited Some Historians of Lincolnshire, contributing two articles himself, and in 1993 published, with me. a book called Poems by Two Brothers, on the poetry of the Tennyson family. When the book came out we, like the Tennyson brothers, drove down to Mablethorpe to "share our triumph with the winds and the Sturman enjoyed a successful teaching career at Wood-

bridge school, then as Head of Geography at Thetford Grammar, at St Felix School, Southwold, at St Mary's School, Colchester and, until his death, at Colchester Sixth Form College. In 1988 he became editor of the Journal of the Society of Lincolnshire History and Archaeology; he was a natural editor - thorough, scrupulous, demanding the highest standards from himself and others, paying unremitting attention to detail, but never losing his

sense of larger aims. His purpose in editing, as in all his writing, was to show the within the larger patterns of historical, geographical and literary theory. In this he anticipated the trajectory of current scholarship, which seeks to anchor writers in pe-

riod and place rather than thinking of them simply as "for Chris Sturman's passion for academic research never flagged for an instant during his illness. On the morning of his death he was eagerly awaiting

the post which was to bring new

information on the 19th-century

Boston printer and book col-

lector Robert Roberts, for his next book, to be called Landscape and Friendship. The two nouns suggest the twin poles of his existence. He has been buried in saltmarsh country, in North Somercotes churchyard, in Lincolnshire. His own longplanned epitaph to be placed there is from an unpublished canto of Ezra Pound:

A blown husk that is finished. but the light sings eternal. A paic flare over marshes where the salt-hay whispers to tide's

Valerie Purton

les out st ort of Los

Parameter School

Confined to a wheelchair. she then had to cope with more with her when she died.

- Percy Savage

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

HIGHAM: Jennifer St Clair. On 15 November 1997. much-loved sister, aunt. godparent. friend and member aunt, godparent, friend and member of the congretation of St Criumba's by the Castle, with great faith, after a rapid illness. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, at 11am on Saturday 22 November. Family flowers only, donations may be sent to Provincial Overseas Mission, clo General Synad Offices, Scotish Episcopal Church, 21 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EE. cent, Edinburgh EH12 5EE.

OWEN: wan Dale, DL, peacefully, at home, on 12 November, after a short illness. Belowed husband of Maureen and father of Justin. Julian and the late Jason. Private funeral. Thanksgiving service at All Saints Church, Penarth, on Saurday 13 December at 11am. Family flowers only, but if desired, donations to the Army Benevolent Fund, 41 Queen's Gate, London SW7 SHR or to the Architects' Benevolent Society, 66 Portland Place, London W1N 4AD.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, triephone 0171-293 2012.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Right Rev Dewi Bridges, Bish-op of Swansea and Brecon, 64; Sir Kenneth Clucas, former senior civ-

Birthdays

il servant, 76; Professor Charles Cowan, former Chairman of Convocation, London University, 74; Lord Cullen, a Senator of the Col-lege of Justice in Scotland, 62; The Rev Dr Vivian Green, former Rec-tor, Lincoln College, Oxford, 82; Mr David Hemmings, actor and director, 56; Mr John Hosier, former Director, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, 69; Baroness Jay of Padding-ton, Minister of State for Health, 58; Sir Gordon Jewkes, former diplomat, 66; Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, chairman of St Dunstan's (for Service War Blinded), 74; Mr Alan Pryce-Jones, writer and critic, 89; Pro-fessor John Quayle, former Vice-Chancellor, Bath University, 71; Mr Alan Shepard, astronaut, 74; Sir Murray Stuart-Smith, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 70; Sir Tasker Watkins VC, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, and former Deputy Chief Justice of England, 79: Miss Kim Wilde, singer, 37.

Anniversaries

Births: Sir William Schwenck Gilbert, playwright and librettist, 1836; George Horace Gallup, public opinion polister, 1901. Deaths:

Laurence Peake, writer and artist 1968. On this day: William Caxton issued his first dated, printed book, 1477; St Peter's, Rome, was consecrated, 1626; the first Mickey Mouse cartoon, Steamboat Willie, was shown, 1928; fire broke out at King's Cross underground station, and 30 people died, 1987. Today is the Feast Day of St Mawes or Mandez, St Odo of Cluny and St Romanus of

Marcel Proust, writer, 1922; Mervyo

Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London ECI: Professor Joanna MacGregor and Professor Stephen Pratt, "The Challenge of

Tradition", Ipm. Leicester University: Professor Michael Joseph, "Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea: is studying the brain a reward or 2 ishment?", 5.30pm. RIBA Architecture Centre, London W1: Alan Stanton and Paul Williams, "Developing a Language

Executer University: Andrew Tet-tenborn, "Publish - but why be damned?", 1.10pm. London School of Economics London WC2: Professor Stefano Rodota, "Privacy, Identity and

Changing of the Guard
The Remobeld Caraby Mounted Repress
the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards.

LAW REPORT: 18 NOVEMBER 1997

Acceptance of statement does not preclude appeal

The fact that a defendant's acceptance of an allegation made in a statement tendered by the prosecution under section 3(1)(a) of the Drug Trafficking Offances Act 1986 had been accepted by the Crown Court as conclusive did not preciude the defendant from appealing against the confiscation order on the ground that he had accepted the allegation through a mistake of law or fact.

Regina v Emmett and anor; House of Lands (Land Golf of Chieveley. Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Steyn and Lord Clyde) I3 November 1997

The House of Lords allowed the Crown's appeal against the decision of the Court of Appeal quashing confiscation orders made against Brian Emmett and Michael Emmett pursuant to the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986, and re-

stored the confiscation orders. The respondents had pleaded guilty to being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of the prohibition on the

importation of a controlled drug contrary to section 170(2) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979. Confiscation orders were made against them by agreement, of £1,000 and £20,705.21 respectively. Paul Garlick QC and Nigel Lickley (Solicitor, HM Customs & Excise) for the Crown; Sir Ivan Lawrence QC and Anthony Wilcken (Ralph Haeems & Co) for the respondents.

Lord Steyn said that section 3(1) of the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 provided that:

Where - (a) there is tendered to the Crown Court by the prosecutor a statement as to any marters relevant to the determination whether the defendant had benefited from drug trafficking or to the assessment of the value of his proceeds of drug trafficking, and (b) the defendant accepts to any extent the allegation in the statement, the court may, for the purposes of that determination and asclusive of the matters to which it

The questions before their Lordships were (1) whether, where a defendant had accepted an allegation made by the Crown in a section 3(1) statement and the Crown Court had treated his acceptance of the allegation as conclusive, he could appeal against the confiscation order on the ground that his acceptance of the allegation was based on a mistake of law or fact, and (2) whether the burden was on the appellant to prove that the mistake had caused him to accept

the allegation. The Crown submitted that the general right to appeal neainst a confiscation order had been excluded by section 3(1) in respect of a defendant's ac-

acted on by the court, relying on the judgment in R v Tredwen (1994) 99 Cr App R 154.

There was, however, a strong presumption that except by specific provision the legislature would not exclude a right of appeal where such a right was ordinarily available. The focus of section 3 was the Crown Court. and its language was not apt to deal with the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal to hear an appeal against confiscation orders even if uncontested and arising from a decison under section 3(1). The observations in Tredwen about the meaning and effect of section 3(1) were, therefore, incorrect.

The answer to the second certified question was selfevident: the burden rested on an appellant to persuade the Court of Appeal that his assertion that his acceptance of any ceptance of any allegation in a allegation in a section 3 statestatement tendered by the ment was the result of a mistake

prosecutor which had been of law or fact was correct. Lest it be thought that those

observations were an open sesame to such appeals, the following matters must be mentioned. The question in such cases would not be what mistake counsel had made, but what mistake the defendant had made, and the burden of proving it might not easily be discharged. The focus in such cases would be on a material and causatively relevant mistake. Even if the defendant could persuade the Court of Appeal on those points, the court would still have to consider whether, absent a material mistake, the particular confiscation order would nev-

ertheless have been inevitable. In the present case, where the agreement had been freely made on instructions and had been unaffected by any mistake, the Court of Appeal had erred, and the appeal would be allowed.

- Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

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BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@ INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

BAe threatens to take Airbus work abroad in aid row

British Aerospace is threatening to relocate some of its Airbus work abroad, amid indications that it will be refused £120m in launch aid to develop a new stretched version of the A340 jet. As Michael Harrison reports, the move would put thousands of jobs at risk and raise question marks over Britain's role in the four-nation consortium.

The Treasury and the Department of Trade and industry are poised to reject BAe's application for launch investment for the new A340-500 and 600 aircraft.

The development has come as a shock, since only last Friday the DTI announced a £200m aid package for Rolls-Royce to develop a version of its Trent engine to power the 375-seater Airbus jet.

The recommendation not to grant government support to BAe is understood to have been made by the Paymaster General, Geoffrey Robinson, who has been vetting the application as part of his overall responsibility for public-private partnerships. Both the President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, who is in New Delhi at the moment as part of trade mission to India and Australia, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, are understood to have discussed the

Spokesmen for both the DTI and the Treasury denied that a decision had been made, adding that the application was still under active consideration. However, a BAe spokesman said: "If the rumours are true that launch aid has been refused then there will be very serious consequences."

It is understood that BAe would review its investment strategy with the intention of carrying out the Airbus work in a country where government support would be

"It would be reasonable to speculate that BAe would look very seriously at whether it would want to continue investing in the UK as far as the Airbus programme is concerned," said one senior industry source.

BAe employs about 6,000 people directly on the Airbus programme, making wings for the aircraft at Chester, the Filton plant near Bristol, Chadderton near Manchester and Prestwick in Ayr.

However, the total number of UK jobs dependent on the Airbus programme is reckoned to be nearer 40,000 including subcontractors and suppliers.

It is thought that one option for BAe would be to subcontract its work share on the new Airbus to Italy or Spain, which is one of the four partners in the consortium.

A refusal by the UK government to provide support for the latest jet could also complicate attempts to turn the Airbus consortium into a single commercial entity by 1999 ahead of a flotation of the business. "This is an important moment for Britain to be showing an interest in Airbus and a commitment to the business," one source said.

BAe has a 20 per cent stake in Airbus while Daimler-Benz and Aerospatiale of France each have a 37.9 per cent stake and Casa of Spain the remaining 4.2 per cent.

BAe has now repaid all the launch aid received on the Airbus A320 programme and expects to repay a further £500m of launch aid over the next three years.

Airbus had planned to confirm the industrial launch of the A340-500 and 600 at the Dubai airshow but was forced to postpone an announcement because of uncertainties about UK support for the programme. Four airlines have so far announced orders for the new aircraft - Virgin Atlantic, Air Canada, Egyptair and Eva Air of Taiwan. Airbus is understood to have 80 orders from seven launch customers.

The new A340 will cost about \$2bn (£1.2bn) to develop in total and will be able to seat 375 passengers - allowing it to comnete directly with some versions of the Boeing 747 Jumbo jet.

A Treasury spokesman said last night: "A decision has not yet been announced. The Government is considering the application against the framework of publicprivate partnerships."

The DTI said: "The matter is still under consideration and a decision will be made in due course.



British Steel rails against Government on sterling

The chairman of British Steel yesterday attacked the Government over its stance

on the single currency as the company reported a near halving in profits and warned of more jobs cuts to come. Michael Harrison reports on the toll that exchange rates are continuing to take on the manufacturing sector.

Sir Brian Moffat criticised the Government's decision to rule out entering the single currency in this parliament and said the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, and other ministers should be doing more to talk the pound down.

"I wouldn't close the door this side of Government should be doing more to help

the next government. If you can keep the door open you are in a better bargaining position," he said.

Sir Brian was speaking as British Steel announced a 45 per cent slump in pre-tax profits for the first six months of the year from £262m to £143m and refused to deny reports that 10,000 jobs would disappear from its UK workforce over the next few

The company believes that Britain's refusal to contemplate entering economic and monetary union before 2002 is contributing to the artificially high level of sterling which is wreaking such havoc on its profits.

The 20 per cent rise in the value of sterling against the German mark in the last year has cost British Steel an estimated £600m in profits and Sir Brian said the

by talking down the currency. He said that he had written to the Chancellor a fortnight ago setting out his view and had received a reply from Mr Brown saying, in effect: "I hear your words."

The exchange rate squeeze has meant a redoubling in British Steel's efforts to reslashing employee numbers further. The UK workforce has fallen by 3,000 in the last 12 months to 40,800 and by the end of this year will have declined by a further 2,100, including 600 jobs that will disappear with the outsourcing of its IT activities to

CAP Gemini. Sir Brian refused to comment on the possibility of British Steel taking a stake in the German steelmaker Preussag Stahl. But he confirmed that plans to invest in a \$600m (£353m) steel mill in Indonesia had

been put on the backburner because of the economic turmoil in Pacific Rim countries.

The fall in profits was due to an 11 per cent slump in revenues per tonne which more than cancelled out a 4 per cent increase in deliveries to 7.5 million tonnes and a 20-25 per cent improvement in prices duce its cost base. It is aiming to cut its across the board. However, the decline in £2.5bn supply bill by up to £500m while earnings was not as bad as analysts had predicted and British Steel shares put on 3.75p to close at 148.75p.

Sir Brian said the impact of the strong pound was likely to be more pronounced in the second half but, set against this, the company would have the full benefit of higher prices. Analysis' forecasts for second-half profits vary from £100m to £200m which would give full-year profits of about £250m-£350m compared with £451m last year.

Investment column, page 20 Outlook, page 21

Tunnel link group rules out stopping short of London

The consortium chosen to build the high-speed Channel Tunnel rail link yesterday emphatically ruled out stopping the line short of central London and said its plans to raise up to £5.4bn in finance and let key tunnelling contracts remained on course. Michael Harrison reports.

London & Continental Railways (LCR), which was awarded the franchise to operate rail services to the tunnel in May last year, said the option of phasing the project or ending the route at Stratford in Essex or Ebbsfleet in Kent had been "discarded as

fundamentally flawed". Adam Mills, chief executive of LCR, said both it and the Government were so committed to building the 68-mile link right through to St Pancras station in central London that the issue of alternatives had not even been discussed with John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Transport, Environment and the Regions.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the link will be built as planned because first that is what we are legally contracted by the Government to do and second because all the evaluation we have done shows that the economics of the project would not work if it ended anywhere else," Mr Mills said.

He added that preferred contractors for £500m worth of tunnelling work into London would be announced before Christmas with the contracts let in the spring.

LCR also intends to present detailed proposals to the City covering the financing and building of the link early in the new year ahead of a £5.4bn fund-raising exercise in the middle of next year. Although LCR is still pro-

ceeding on the basis of floating on the stock market as an independent business, Mr Mills did not rule out participation in the project by a third

The consortium is talking to seven other parties including Railtrack about how they could help with the financing and construction of the link.

LCR said it remained con-



John Prescott: London & Continental said it had not even discussed alternatives with the Deputy Prime Minister

project would not exceed £3bn in 1995 prices. However, together with working capital for its existing train operation. Eurostar, and financing costs, the peak funding requirement

could reach £5.4bn. LCR confirmed that the fire inside the Channel Tunnel a year ago had affected passenger growth rates for its Eurostar service and said it would set out details of its new forecasts to the

fident that the capital cost of the City in its presentation early next year. Eurostar will handle about 6 million passengers this year compared with a forecast by the tunnel operator Eurotunnel of 6.7 million. Eurotunnel out Eurostar passenger numbers at 9.6 million next year and 10.6 million in 1999.

Mr Mills said the link was still on schedule to open, as planned, in 2003 and that ten- will be paid a package of around ders had been invited for twothirds of the construction cost. Neil Ashley, chairman of Amey,

Staples joins Amey as CEO

Brian Staples, who was ousted as chief executive of United Utilities four months ago, has been appointed to the same post at Amey, the road builder and facilities management com-

Mr Staples is suing United Utilities, based in the Northeast, for damages of up to £2m for unfair dismissal. United is defending the action. Mr Staples is also taking United to an industrial tribunal, and is seeking extra compensation for bonus and share option pack-

Mr Staples was sacked after a very public falling out with Sir Desmond Pitcher, the controversial chairman of United who himself was forced to leave United last month due to shareholder pressure. United denies that Mr Staples' decision to leave his wife and move in with Sir Desmond Pitcher's former secretary was a factor

in his departure. Mr Staples will take over at Arney from Eddie King, the current chief executive, next Monday. Mr King will continue as a director until he retires in February 1998, when he will

At his new job Mr Staples a quarter of a million pounds.

said Mr Staples' pay would be "commensurate to others in the industry - similar to Eddie King s".

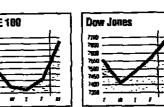
Mr King had a one-year rolling contract under which he received £255,000 for the year to December 1996, which included a basic salary of £217,000 plus pensions contributions of £40,000.

Mr Ashley said Amey was not worried by the controversial circumstances in which Mr Staples left United. "Virtually everyone I spoke to gave him a good write-up. I understand a clash of personalities occurred. That certainly doesn't reflect on his capability, skills or experience."

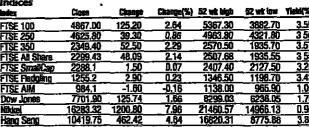
The chairman described Mr Staples as being a leading light in contracting for the last 20 years, with a successful spell at Tarmac. He also had experience of facilities management, the area which Amey has earmarked for expansion, Mr. Ashley said.

Amey plans to make a series of acquisitions, and Mr Staples will be in charge of deciding what to go after, the chairman

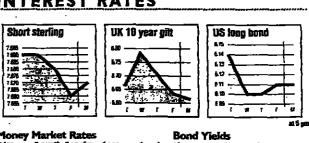
"He was the driving force behind the link-up between Norweb and North West Water which produced United





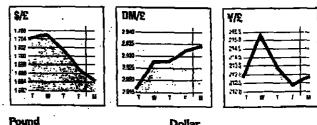


INTEREST RATES



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| United Biscurits | 219.50 | 25.00 | 13.14 | Yule and Catto | 319.50 | -7.00 | -2.1 |
| Schroders | 1570.00 | 142.00 | 9.94 | Coats Vivella | 104.50 | -2.00 | -1.8 |
| Flemings Japan | 138.25 | 9,75 | 7,59 | Bodycate Intl | 937.5 | -17.5 | -1.8 |
| Racal Electronic | 214.50 | 13.00 | 6.45 | London Clubs | 282 | -4 | -1 |
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CURRENCIES



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OTHER INDICATORS

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| | Gold (5) | 303.75 | 0.65 | 379.10 | RPI | 159.50 | 3.7 | 153.81 | Nov |
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Dust-up at Dial-a-Cab as vote swings against float member made a remark to David the board, despite a request to quit

been postponed after hate mail was sem to its financial advisers, English Trust, and a 'death threat' was allegedly

made to a director. Dial-a-Cab had been due to float on the Alternative Investment Market in the spring, but a vote at a meeting on Sunday, attended by 1,290 of the co-operative's 1.628 members failed to get the necessary 75 per cent approval. Only 55 per cent of those

present voted in favour of the float. Brian Rice, Dial-a-Cah's chairman, yesterday expressed disappoint-

The flotation of Dial-a-Cab, the ment at the vote, saying that he and London black taxi co-operative, has all other directors bar one were "100 view was not shared by the many taxidrivers who supported David Clegg, the

one dissenting director. One driver yesterday attributed the vote result to a lack of member consultation. "It was presented to us

as a fait accompli," he said. Discussion among cabbies of the proposals prior to Sunday's meeting was marred by claims and counterclaims of driver intimidation, apparently sparked by a change of heart by Mr Clegg. Mr Clegg originally sup-

ported the plans, but altered his stance shortly before Sunday's meeting. "David [Clegg] didn't want to go

along with the proposals, but, being on the board, he was caught on the horns of a dilemma. But we [the drivers] told him not to keep his mouth shut, but to speak up," explained one driver.

After Mr Clegg's apparent U-turn, internal debate over the conversion issue escalated last week.

"After David withdrew his support, English Trust received some hate mail," Mr Rice said. "Then an argument ensued between one of the members and David Clegg. The

along the lines of 'I could murder you' or I could kill you'. David then notified the police." Dial-a-Cab was keen to play down

the alleged death threats yesterday. which, following interviews with the parties involved, will not be investigated further by the police. "It was a figurative remark, made in the heat of the moment," Mr Rice said. One taxidriver remarked: "The man (who made the threat | doesn't have the puff

Mr Clegg was adamant yesterday that he would not be resigning from

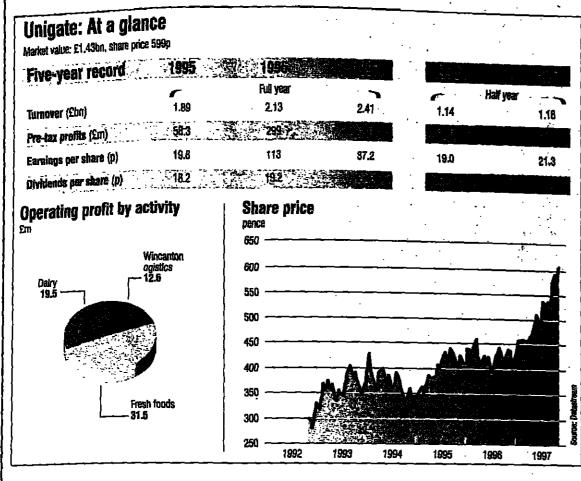
from Mr Rice. His decision was supported by many taxi-drivers. One said: "He's the only man on the board who supports our views."

Mr Rice said he would not be pursuing flotation proposals. He added: "I could do, but I don't intend to. We were 20 per cent short [of the required majority and I don't consider that ... we could make up the ground."

The flotation issue will again be on the agenda when the cabbies convene in him to do anything, quite frankly". a week on Sunday for the annual

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON



Cash pile is key factor at Unigate

Unigate has been a good investment over the past three years as shareholders have focused more on the steadily growing fresh foods side of the business and less on the slowly declining milk arm. Although the balance of those two has resulted in only gradually improving profits, the re-rating of the shares over the past three years has seen them double in value to vesterday's 600p, up 5p.

Profits for the six months to September were in line or slightly better than analysts' expectations. Pre-tax profits increased 11 per cent to £67.4m thanks to higher underlying profits and more interest on Unigate's still burgeoning cash pile. Earnings per share of 21.3p were 10 per cent higher and the interim dividend rose 7 per cent to 7.5p.

Behind the headline figures lay good growth in the food operations fresh foods and dairy - and a steady performance from the Wincanton logistics business which is recovering from last year's transport problems. St lvel's chilled products were the

driving force, with the Utterty Butterly hit problems impressive 24 per cent share of that market and Shape yogurts posting a 25 per Its been a bit quieter at Emap since its

prices and cost reductions. The problems over the past four years since the Milk Marketing Board was replaced by the private monopoly Milk Marque now appear to be behind the company.

From an investment point of view, what matters is what Unigate plans to do with its £170m cash pile. Sir Ross Buckland, chief executive, was pretty coy on that subject yesterday, although he did say a share buyback was less likely than further acquisitions. That is good news, because a return of cash to shareholders could only expect to enhance earnings per share by around 7 per cent, whereas a sensible acquisition ought to be able to add more in the medium term.

Even without further acquisitions, Unigate's shares still look reasonable value even after their recent run. With analysts forecasting an acceleration of profits growth to £140m this year and £150m next time, they trade on an undemanding prospective price/earnings multiple of around 13. That discount is probably an unfair reflection of what are now much higher quality earnings.

Emap could

cent volume gain after a marketing push. recent boardroom spat, but things have Dairy recorded an 11 per cent in- been bubbling away in the background, crease in profits, on modestly rising as yesterday's £85m acquisition of turnover, thanks to lower raw milk Macmillan Magazines' health services

cause may start to tail off. The other uncertainty is whether Emap will be successful in bidding for IPC, Reed Elsevier's consumer magazine division.

Merrill Lynch says Emap is trading on a price/earnings ratio of 18 for the year to March 1999 on the basis of forecast profits of £158m. That looks cheap compared to its immediate peer group, Reed and Reuters, but it is full enough compared to expected growth in the low

Sterling dents **British Steel**

British Steel is the ultimate cyclical stock, riding the twin roller-coasters of the economic cycle and the foreign exchange markets. The gyrations it experiences as a result have made the company a dismal long-term investment but a great opportunity for anyone who fancies they have a short-term economic or financial crys-

Although the shares are no higher than they were in 1989, buying at the end of 1992 would have increased your investment five-fold in the following four years.

Profits of £143m for the six months to September were well ahead of expectations although almost halved from last year's £262m, and the shares, now 40 per cent owned by bullish Health Services Journal, and analysts are American investors, nudged 3.75p confident that Emap will be able to make higher to 148.75p in response.

The company had warned six ness, which made operating profits of months ago that the full impact of sterling's appreciation had yet to be felt and it was right, only a little less than of September were good, with pre-tax expected.

Demand for the company's steel is actually pretty buoyant just now, with the car and construction industries in fine fettle ~ volumes were 4 per cent higher and prices have started to firm in local currency terms.

All the benefit was eroded by the mance in the UK, although the French effects of the soaraway pound, which titles suffered on translation because of has risen by around 30 per cent against the strength of sterling and the weaker the mark over the past two years. Almost all steel in Europe is traded in The second half of the year will see marks, making British Steel less comsome big new launches like Red, a petitive against European rivals in women's magazine which hits the street their markets and more vulnerable to imports at home.

in the UK in the New Year. There will One of the reasons British Steel's Radio didn't have such a good tale shares are so volatile is that small to tell, with advertising growth suffermovements in currencies can have a ing from management changes. The 10 dramatic impact on forecasts. One analyst yesterday hiked his estimate for the per cent rise compared with the indusyear to next March from £220m to

Despite the strong figures, there are £400m. future. Robin Miller, chief executive, said have weathered the current downturn vesterday that although there would be a lot better than the previous slump in growth in the second half, it would not the early 1990s and its big discount to be as strong as it has been in the past the rest of the market, underpinned by six months. Paper prices are likely to rise a 6.7 per cent net yield, might look unagain, and increases in advertising rev- justified.

United Biscuits to net £241m in swap deal with PepsiCo

United Biscuits yesterday announced it would gain £241m from an asset swap deal with its arch-rival PepsiCo. As Andrew Verity reports, the deal marks the end of a troubled time for UB which has seen shares underperform the market and lose battles for market share with PepsiCo.

UB said it would return £150m to shareholders no later than July next year after sealing the deal, which, the company says, should also enhance earnings.

Under the terms of the deal, PepsiCo will buy the rights to UB's "Nibbit" snack brand as well as its French snack business and a factory in Veume, Belgium. UB will in turn buy PepiCo's French biscuit operation. Biscuiterie Nantaise, which makes France's favourite sandwich biscuit, "le BN".

UB is also selling two Australian subsidiaries which have fallen prey to an antipodean craze for Tazos, a Mexican-style biscuit made by PepsiCo. Both the Original Pretzel Company

and the Smith's Snackfood Company, which are owned by UB, have lost market share because of the popularity of collectable plastic discs placed in

Tazo snack packets. UB said that after the £150m had been returned to shareholders, it would use the remaining £91m to reduce borrowings and invest in an unnamed "series of strategic initiatives".

Colin Short, UB's chairman, said: "Today's deal represents a very significant development for UB. It gives us a stronger business platform from which to drive for growth in our in-ternational biscuit operations and UK food portfolio."

The swap of assets follows a troubled year for UB which has seen it lose market share in its battles with PepsiCo. It also represents a climbdown for UB's chief executive, Eric Nicoli, who pledged in September that he would "see off" PepsiCo's challenge in Aus-

However, UB has avoided a mooted sell-off of its flagship British crisp brand, KP, which has also been slipping in popularity against Walker's crisps. owned by PepsiCo. Mr Nicoli

admitted last month that KP could not keep pace with Walker's, which now holds a 50 per cent share of the market against just 5 per cent for KP.

Investors greeted news of the disposals with a sigh of relief, marking up UB's share price by 25p to 219p. UB's shares have underperformed both the sector and the market by almost 20 per cent this year.

The company said profits from its French, Belgian and Australian brands had suffered as a consequence of the strength of sterling. Sales of biscuits from Bisculterie Nationale in France had also been hit.

The deal needs approval from regulators and from the shareholders of UB, who will be called to an extraordinary general meeting "as soon as is practicable".

Despite yesterday's share price rise, UB's equity still remains well below the 300p to 350p level it enjoyed before announcing gloomy results in 1995. It is now aiming to to boost its share of the ownbrands market, the growth of which in the big supermarkets has hit sales of its branded products.

Shell and BP pump **£lbn** into Russia

Europe's two biggest oil companies separately announced \$1.7bn (£lbn) of investments in Russia to develop the country's vast oil and gas reserves. The moves are the first by Western oil companies since Russia relaxed restrictions on foreign investment in its oil industry.

The Royal Dutch/Shell Group, the world's biggest international oil company, said it would work with RAO Gazprom, the largest natural gas company, to extract gas and 500,000 barrels of oil a day.

while, the world's fifth-largest oil company, said it would pay \$750m for a 10 per cent stake in AO Sidanco, Russia's fourthlargest oil company, to tap a giant Siberian gas field.

The announcements come a fortnight after Boris Yeltsin, the Russian President, repealed a law that prevented foreigners from owning more than 15 per cent of a Russian oil company and signal a new confidence among western oil companies in the economic viability of Russian oil projects.

Amoco Corp of the US Chicago and ENI of Italy have expressed interest in such pro-

jects. Exxon Corp. though, is waiting to see whether the government rethinks its decision to cancel the company's bid on a 2 billion-barrel project.

BP will make its investment formal in a signing ceremony at Prime Minister Tony Blair's office today.

Shell is buying \$1bn worth of bonds from RAO Gazprom. It will also join with Gazprom and AO Lukoil Holding to consider a bid for RAO Rosneft, the last large remaining stateowned oil company up for sale.

Russia's lifting restrictions on foreign investment in oil gives big western companies a freer hand in bidding stakes in statecontrolled companies set to be sold in the coming months such as Rosneft, AO Lukoil Holding, AO KomiTEK, AO East Siberian, AO Siberian & Urals Oil & Gas Chemical Co. and AO Norsi-oil Competition for Rosneft, the 10th largest oil producer in Russia, is heating up even before the Russian government sets the auction conditions. The government wants to promote competition because it wants to get the highest possible price and help plug

Emap set to create new television channel

Emap, the publishing and information group, is expected to announce within days the development of a new television channel called Magic. The venture signals the company's determination to expand its television interests.

Magic is defined as "a music channel for thirty-somethings", and will start broadcasting on cable television in the second quarter of next year.

ecutive of Emap Radio, is overseeing the company's expansion into television. He said last night: "Magic will be more music, less chat. It will feature contemporary hits and acts whose appeal transcends the current singles charts."

Emap already owns a series of radio stations under the Magic banner, broadcasting to 6 million people in the Northeast, the North-west and Yorkshire. Mr Schoonmaker said the Magic channel would transmit the same music to a similar audience, but across the country. The typical viewer would be a "32-year-old person with a family," he added.

Magic will use the same format as Emap's existing music video channel, The Box, which the company acquired last year. As a result, the investment in Magic will be minimal, as the infrastructure is already in place.

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The Box is transmitted 24 hours a day via cable, and in the early hours via satellite on GSkyB, a joint venture between Granada and BSkyB. Emap said yesterday the channel was the most widely-viewed music channel in cable-only households.

The Magic venture follows news last month that Emap was considering creating television programmes based on some of its well-known magazine brands such as Just Seventeen, Max Power, and FHM.

Emap yesterday announced pre-tax profits for the six months to the end of September of £64.5m, an increase of 27 per cent. That excluded a £113.5m profit on disposals in the previous half year. The interim dividend rose 15 per cent

- Cathy Newman

Dividend 22.5m (24.2m) 2.48m (2.55m) 32.8p (34.6p) 13.5p (12.25p) 3.40bn (3.65bn) 143m (262m) 4.74p (8.85p) 3.0p (3.0p) Oar number helps us 257.5m (223.9m) 21.6m (23.5m) 24.9p (27.0p) 14.5p (14.5p to do more business. 376.1m (361.7m) 64.5m (50.6m) 20.4p (16.0p) 4.95p (4.30p) Does yours? 56 06m (55 88m) 3.783m (30.36m) 5 1p (35.0p) 1.5p (1.5p) Call 07000 70 70 70 1.17bm (1.14bm) 67.4m (60.6m) 20.9p (19.0p) 7 5p (7.0p) 73.22m (74.05m) 2.28m (2.71m) 3.7p (4.4p) 1.75p (1.75p)

IN BRIEF

division indicated. Through the deal,

Emap has inherited six well-known

trade titles, including Nursing Times and

cost-savings of up to £1m on the busi-

profits up 27 per cent to £64.5m. The

company is taking advantage of the

buoyant economy and falling paper

prices by almost doubling its investment

in its magazines and radio stations this

year to around £14m. Consumer mag-

azines turned in a dazzling perfor-

economy across the Channel.

also be new launches in France.

try average of 14 per cent.

Results for the half year to the end

£8.4m last year.

BSkyB finance director quits

British Sky Broadcasting Group said Richard Brooke had resigned as group finance director, with effect from the end of this month. He will be succeeded by Nick Carrington, who has been chief financial officer since June 1995. Mr Brooke will be taking up the position of managing director of St James's Investment Partnership, which specialises in developing media projects.

Sinclair launches £10.7m bid

Sinclair Montrose launched a recommended £10.7m offer for The Premiere Group. It is offering 22 of its shares for every 20 Premiere, or 11 of its shares and £26.78 in cash or loan notes for every 20 Premiere shares. Premiere achieved pre-tax profits of £670,000 on turnover of £18.39m in the period from 1 May 1 to 31 December 1996. Sinclair said the acquisition would provide opportunities for the enlarged group, enhancing growth of Match's healthcare contract business through Premiere's ability to supply clinical and non-clinical personnel, greater geographic coverage and enhanced margins.

Racal in Saudi radio deal

Racal Electronics has been selected by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Defence and Aviation to supply Panther-V VHF tactical frequency-hopping radios to all Royal Saudi Land Forces. The agreement will see the local manufacture and integration of many thousands of radios into all main land-based platforms operated by the Saudi Land Forces. Racal said it expects this programme to result in or-ders worth "well in excess of £100m over the next 10 years".

ABF eyes Spillers' mills

Associated British Foods said it was considering buying Spillers milling operations, a part of Dalgety Food Ingredients. ABF has formally approached the Office For Trading for clearance to buy the business. In September, Dalgety announced it intended to sell DFI, which consists of the milling operations and Spillers Consumer Foods. No financial details were given.

C&G ups mortgage rate

Cheltenham & Gloucester said its standard variable mortgage rate will increase by 0.25 percentage points to 8.7 per cent from 20 November for new applicants and 1 December for established borrowers. The interest rate on C&G's Instant Transfer Account will increase on 1 December by the same amount to 7.25 per cent gross per annum on all balances.

Hollick may link with venture capital group for football TV

Guinness Mahon Development Capital (GMDC), the venture capital company, is considering linking with United News & Media to develop pay-TV channels for Glasgow Rangers and Derby County football clubs.

United already has links with GMDC through a £2.5m investment in the group's Global Rights Fund. The fund specialises in backing unquoted companies involved in intellectual properties in the media, entertainment, information and leisure industries.

Gordon Power, managing director of GMDC, said yesterday that discussions with Rangers and Derby were going on, but it would be some time before a deal was signed. "There are an enormous quantity of rights available," he said. "The careful management and exploitation of sports rights

COMPANY RESULTS

Adam & Harvey (i)

British Steel (1)

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needs considerable thought." GMDC would provide the initial investment in a Rangers or Derby channel and would oversee the management of the clubs' brands internationally. United has been having talks

with a wide variety of clubs in a

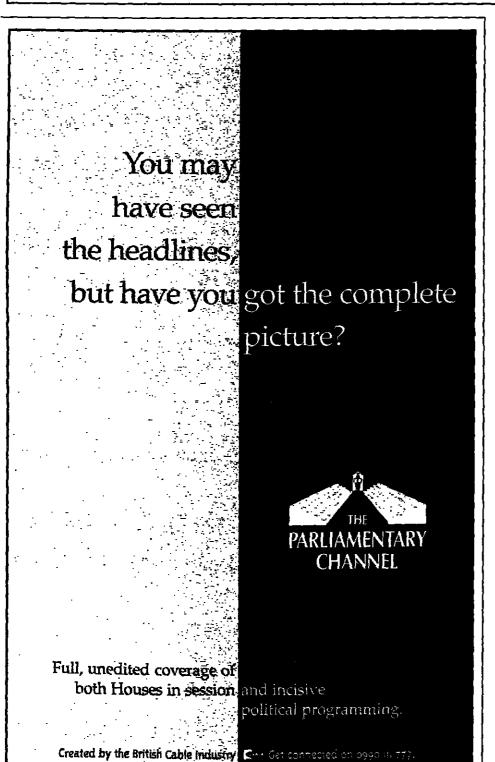
a gap in the federal budget.

bid to compete with other broadcasters such as Granada, which last month linked up with BSkyB and Manchester United to form MUTV. Earlier this month, United was looking at the possibility of

linking up with Southampton Leisure on a pay-TV channel for Southampton football club, Lord Hollick's media group has also been linked to plans for a Leeds United channel. Sony Music Entertainment

is the other trade investor in GMDC's media fund, with a share worth £2m.

-Cathy Newman



OUTLOOK ON THE BANKING CRISIS IN JAPAN AND THE ARGUMENT OVER AIRBUS LAUNCH AID FOR BAE

Japan's crisis demands international action

It could only happen in Japan. Far from causing another precipitous plunge in the Tokyo stock market, the first ever post war collapse of a major Japanese commercial bank was greeted with unrestrained glee yesterday, with the Nikkei rebounding a full 8 per cent. While this might seem a curiously perverse reaction to a catachysmic event, it is not altogether without reason. If the Japanese authorities are prepared for the first time to allow a big bank to go the wall, then that means they have an underlying confidence in the system, they believe that even if this bankruptcy is followed in short order by others, the damage to Japan's economy would be limited.

Furthermore, the insolvency seemed to be dealt with in a thoroughly business like and calming manner. The Bank of Japan stands ready to provide loans that will enable depositors in Hokkaido Takushoku Bank to get their money back, while the Bank's non performing loans are to be taken over by the Deposit Insurance Corporation, a Government backed fund that will work the loans out over a period of time. All very satisfactory.

The trouble is that from a Western point of view it is hard to see how anything has really changed. Is this not just more smoke and mirrors from the Japanese authorities? Finally a Japanese bank has been prepared to admit what everyone has known for years, that it is insolvent. We have now entered the next stage of this great Japanese illusion, that it is possible to have a painless insolven-

fined to just a few players, it may just about be possible to pull off this slight of hand. But if there is a more serious spill over into the Japanese financial system, then the illusion becomes much more difficult to maintain. At this stage, the Japanese authorities can get away with the pretence that no public money is being applied to the bail out. That would plainly not be possible if the process began to snow ball. The chances of this happening are not as remote as might be hoped. Any use of Government money could prove unacceptable to the Japanese electorate.

Without much more positive action by

the Japanese Government than we have seen so far to stimulate the Japanese economy there is no reason to suppose that the present bounce in the Nikkei is any more than temporary (for the reverse view on this see Hamish McRae on page 23). Psychologically, the Japanese Government is already in that phase of thinking where the last thing it wants to do is provide a new fiscal stimulus. It is in rebuild the public finances mode, not slash taxes frame of mind. That in turn is going to put further pressure on Japan's beleaguered banks. The ruling LDP party has proposed some use of public money to recapitalise the banking sector through the issue of a new class of preference share, but the timing of this assistance is in the lap of the gods. It could be years away. The need is more urgent.

If the Nikkei sinks below the 15,000 level, then the system moves into melt down

provide an important part of the reserves of the financial crisis of the Far East as of all Japanese banks. At 15,000 and below, liabilities begin seriously to exceed legal reserve limits, there would be a loss of confidence, and the cost of propping up the banks might become prohibitive. Already there is worrying evidence of this spectre in the rising cost of the "Japan premium", the premium over the norm which Japanese banks have to pay for international money.

So are there no solutions? There are two possible avenues of escape, both hinted at by Larry Summers, the US Deputy Treasury Secretary, during trade talks in Japan over the past few days. The first is the possibility of an international lifeboat for the region's ailing banking system. If this were seriously to be offered, there would have to be a quid pro quo, which would be measures to restimulate the Japanese economy and strengthen the ven. Neither of these two options would have seemed possible even three months ago. but the political will may now be there.

It is a measure of the seriousness of the region's economic plight that Mr Summers now gains a hearing for measures like these. The addition of Korea to the region's list of casualties has underlined the extreme dangers of the present crisis. Even Korea has entered the game of competitive devaluation. With economic growth across the region in full retreat, deflation and protectionism may not be far behind. Certainly some form of coordinated international action has become a matter

While the process of bankruptcy is consomebody else's problem. Perhaps unfortunately, the world just isn't like that any more. The Far East's difficulties are all too quickly likely to become our own.

Why BAe should get launch aid

In an interesting twist to the old adage about carts and horses, Whitehall looks like it is about to put the horse before the cart by granting launch aid for the engine that will pull the new Airbus jet but not for the aircraft itself.

Rolls-Royce was handed £200m in launch investment last week to go away and build a new Trent engine to power the stretched Airbus A340. But just when British Aerospace thought it was about to get a similar handout to make the wings, the Paymaster General, Geoffrey Robinson, appears to have dug his heels in.

Things are sticky enough in Dubai at the best of times. When this piece of unwelcome news filtered through to BAe executives attending the local air show yesterday the response was a collective outbreak of cold sweats. A lot of taxpayers' money is at stake here - the BAe and Rolls Royce aid applications together come to £320m. Nor is BAc noticeably short of cash with a £10bn order book and the drip feed of the Al Yamamah arms for oil project with the Saudis to keep it ticking over for the next decade.

Yet it would appear odd to back the engines and not the airframe when the Government has already satisfied itself that it will get a commercial return from the stretched A340 programme. It would seem all the odder when the Germans and French are backing the programme and when the four partner governments in Airbus are jockeying to put their respective industrial partners in the driving seat when the consortium is turned into a commercial entity in 1999.

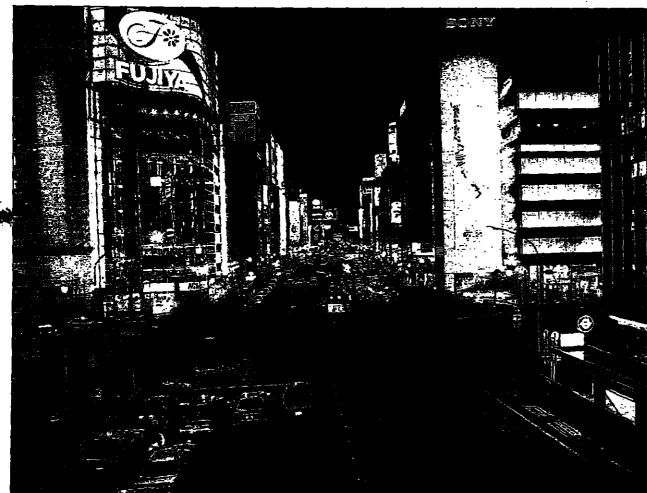
It is always possible that this is a last minute piece of brinkmanship on the part of the Government designed to extract a better deal for the taxpayer. It is always possible that BAe has played its hand badly by making it obvious that the new Airbus would go ahead whether it received launch aid or not - the trap that Rolls fell into when it asked for and was refused aid for the original Trent programme.

It is always possible that BAe's threat to up sticks and build the wings on the Continent is a hollow one. Given BAe's existing Airbus investments in the UK and its highly trained workforce here, this could prove a highly costly fit of pique. dwarfing the size of the launch aid BAe is trying to extract. All the same, this is an odd way for the natural party of business to go about cementing its new-found friendships.

The Government should cough up the money and be done. If this is such a surewin commerical proposition as the Government suggests, then it will get its money back in spades anyway.

Emap set to Create new television channel

15 J.T



Tokyo in turmoil: A willingness to let an unhealthy bank go under appears to have reassured the markets

Japanese stocks rally despite collapse of country's tenth biggest bank

During a remarkable day in Tokyo yesterday, the stock exchange scored one of its biggest ever gains, just hours after seemingly catastrophic news: the long-awaited collapse of the country's tenth biggest bank. Richard Lloyd Parry reports from Tokyo.

The Nikkei average of 225 leading shares rose by 1,200 points or 8 per cent, to close at 16,283, the fourth largest percentage increase in its history. Remarkably, yesterday's rise followed the morning announcement that Hokkaido Takushoku Bank was to become the first Japanese commercial bank to ever to go out of business.

On Friday, after a traumatic month which saw currencies and stock markets plunge around Asia, the Nikkei index had sunk below the 15,000 barrier, and yesterday's unexpected surge appeared to reflect confidence that after years of irresolution, the problem of had debts in Japan's banking system was finally being addressed, Hiroshi Mitsuzuka. the Finance Minister, annonnced yesterday that the Bank of Japan would provide special loans to cover withdrawals by Hokkaido Takushoku depositors, and hinted that public funds may also be drawn upon. The bank's nonperforming loans will be bought out by the Deposit Insurance Corporation, a government-backed fund.

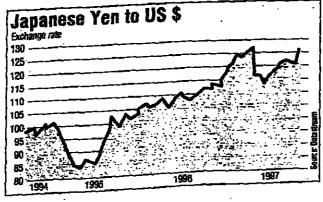
This combination of support for individual depositors coupled with a willingness to let an unhealthy bank go under appears to have reassured the markets that the government is serious about financial reform while keeping casualties to a minimum. Today's step underscores that the authorities are prepared to let capitalism work." said Jesper Koll, the chief economist of J P Morgan in Japan. "The previous Japan doctrine of 'too small to fail has been abandoned and full-blown consolidation is now under way".

Until two years ago, Japanese financial institutions operated in a highly regulated and protected environment under the wing of the powerful Ministry of Finance, which has traditionally propped up ailing banks. Recently however, in an attempt to recover from a lingering slump, the Japanese government has promised to open up the financial markets

come less tolerant of lame ducks. Since 1995 three regional banks and several credit unions have gone under. Hokkaido Takushoko (also known as Hokutaku) is the first of the 20 big "city" banks to fall. and analysts in Tokyo predicted yesterday that it would not

problem loans worth 27:9 trillion yen (£132bn) at the end of March, but independent reckonings put the true total much higher. Serious problems could arise if the liabilities of busted banks exceed the capacity of the Deposit Insurance Corporation, which was set up to protect depositors and maintain confidence. Yesterday, the US deputy treasury secretary, Lawrence Summer, urged the government to use public money to bail out lenders. But the use of public funds to save illmanaged institutions has proved disastrously unpopular in the past, and the political risks are high.

Hokkaido Takushoku, based



in Sapporo on the northern island of Hokkaido, was known to have been ailing for months, and in August, it closed most of its overseas operations. Last month it postponed a planned merger with another Hokkaidobased bank after disagreements over how to handle its burden of bad debts, which were known to total ¥935bn at the end of

Japanese banks declared March. "In addition to lower credit ratings and weak stock prices, which reflected recent worries about the creditworthiness of our bank, the recent collapse of financial firms has made it increasingly difficult for us to raise money in the short-term money market," the bank said m a statement yesterday. "We had to reach a judgement that we would not be able to contique our operations."

The failure will no doubt mean an increase in the socalled "Japan premium", the mark up on borrowing which Japanese banks face on the international market. Yesterday morning, three-month Eurodollar loans in the interbank money market in London were costing Japanese institutions 0.46 per cent higher than European and US banks.

In Hokkaido, the day-today operations of Hokutaku will be taken over by North Pacific Bank. Among the victims of the failure will be a tie-up with Barclays Bank which agreed last June jointly to develop new financial products with Hokutaku. Hamish McRae, page 23

Hong Kong gains breathing space but Korea suffers further

The surge in the Japanese stock market yesterday gave a fillip to other Asian markets, particularly Hong Kong. However, Stephen Vines in Hong Kong reports that Tokyo's rise failed to help neighbouring South Korea avoid share price and currency falls.

The blue chip Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong rose 4.6 per cent both on the good news from Tokyo and on hopes that high

interest rates were set to ease. Miles Rimington, from Crosby Securities, said that traders saw what was happening in Tokyo and were mindful of Priday's rise in Wall Street, ensuring that there was "certainly going to be a positive feeling".

No one is expressing unqualified optimism but marketmakers have noted that the retent slump in share prices has been broken by three days of solid gains, taking the stock market up 8.45 per cent.

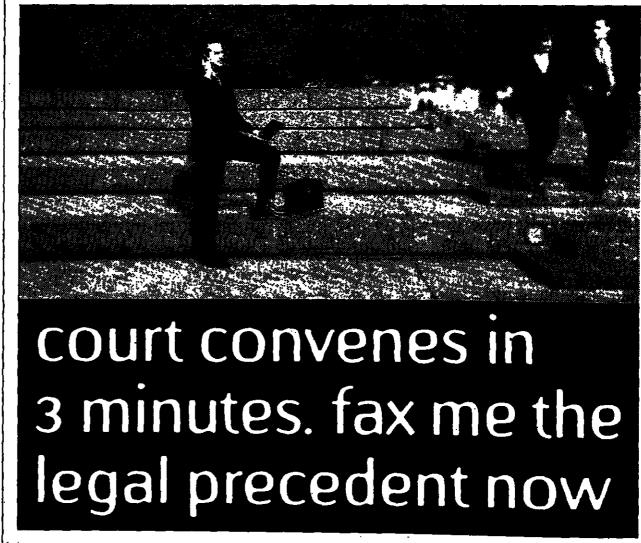
With the Hang Seng Index now at 10,419, comfortably above the 10,000 level, there is hope that it might test 11,000 which could be spurred by a favourable outcome to a three day "financial summit" now under way in the Chinese capital, where senior leaders are discussing financial reforms.

As usual the Chinese authorities are not forthcoming about the agenda but it is believed that discussions will focus on urgently needed reform of the banking sector, which, by and large, is technically bankrupt.

Estimates of the level of bad debt vary but it seems that some 13 per cent of loans are nonperforming. The challenge for the Chinese leadership is to turn the banks into commercial institutions, operating on

recognised lending criteria. Meanwhile in South Korea the central bank has put immense pressure on the government to consider economic reform by suddenly withdrawing its effort to prevent the further devaluation of the currency.

Having declared that it was holding a "Maginot Line" to keep the Korean won below an exchange rate of 1,000 to the US dollar, the bank said yesterday it would no longer intervene in the money markets. The won promptly slipped to a historic low of 1008.6.



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22

Storm clouds retreat but thin trading makes for an unreal surge

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

and Middle Eastern storm 1.5 points gain to 2,288.1. clouds suddenly looked less threatening. With New York this year's Footsie gallop, were house estimated Norwich's BP, up 36p to 874p, splashing

once again thin. Whether the Westminster Bank. Barclays lack of trading was another in- rose 30p to 1,490p and dictment of order-driven trad- NatWest 15.5p to 870.5p. Talk ing or represented overall uncertainty was not clear.

Volume, at 584.9 million, was not much above the stock a statement on Friday, added market's alleged break-even to the excitement. level and some described Footsie's heady progress as one of the most unreal surges flow of bid speculation, it was ever experienced.

It was very much a blue chips party. The supporting Midcap shares experienced little more than a nodding ac- Accident joined the fun. quaintance with the advance and down among the little 'uns favourite insurer to encounter

Financials, a major force in responding, Footsie staged a in the forefront, excited by re-125.2 points advance to 4,867. newed speculation of a Bar-Turnover, however, was clays assault on National that Deutche Morgan Grenfell could be about to clinch a deal with UBS, expected to make other in the frame.

> Among insurers, where there is an almost ceaseless HSBC, up 61p to 1,477p, and the turn of Sun Life & Provincial to lead the charge with a 25p advance to 388p. Com-shares in Tokyo had responded mercial Union and General to Japanese government

Norwich Union, still the

"stand at a premium to sensi-

ble bid valuations". Barclays and Lloyds TSB have been named as possible Norwich predators. Former building society Halifax is an-

The more settled Far Eastem atmosphere had the predictably soothing influence on Standard Chartered, 20p to 642p. The Hong Kong market recovered 4.6 per cent after shares in Tokyo had responded action over a troubled banking operation.

Excitement erupted on the

Equities enjoyed their best absence with the FISE Small- ative Credit Lyonnais Laing prices as Iraqi tension eased.

Cap index managing a token circular, ending 2p higher at British Petroleum and Shell 366.5p. At one time the shares are getting more deeply inwere down 3.5p. The securities volved with the Russians, with theoretical take-out value at out \$750m buying 10 per cent 330p and said the shares of Sidanco, Russia's fourth largest integrated oil group, and acquiring an interest in an

associate company. 418.5p, is investing \$1bn in

Share spotlight share price, pence Tullow Oïł

RAO Gazprom, the largest Russian group which accounts for 20 per cent of the world's gas reserves. Bid favourite United Bis-

cuits hardened 25.5p to 219.5p following its reluctant, even betralia and European biscuits around 203p. Shareholders lated, withdrawal from its Ausbuild-up. UB collects \$410m Shell, 17.5p higher at from the US giant PepsiCo and plans to return £150m to shareholders.

Associated British Foods, seeking Whitehall approval to bid for Dalgety's milling operation, rose 19p to 559p; Dalgety hardened 6.5p to 247.5p. There was talk that UB, shorn of its Australian shares rose 3p to 139p. The snack food excursion, could attract cash-rich ABF.

158.5p. The possibility of a US sults in Bangladesh. bid was confirmed by venture capital fund Warburg Pincus. Bupa, which bid 150p last

week, let it be known its offer may not be its final shot.

Premiere, a jobs agency, fell 9.5p to 215p as Sinclair Montrose emerged with a near all-paper offer. With Sinclair shares down 58p at 185p the share exchange offer is worth representing 50.73 per cent of Premiere have accepted.

Marks & Spencer added 18p to 600p. Panmure Gordon forecast it will enjoy a role as a "global retailer" and has put a 700p target on the shares.

Tullow Oil remained in demand on a mixture of takeover and exploration hopes. The group has developments in Pakistan and is among com-Care First rose 5p to panies waiting for licensing re-

BAA, the airports group, rose 7p to 501p. Daiwa regard the shares as a short-term sell.

in Japan that the TAKING STOCK Thistle Hotels, where there is talk that a major shareholder, Brierley



Save, the old Frost group, seems to be bidding to become the market's favourite takeover stock. The story of a bid was going the rounds again yesterday with the shares firm at 101p. An oil major is the favourite to

Investments, is decidedly

price, held at 153.5p.

unsettled by the weak share

Charterhouse Tilney rates the

shares, floated at 170p last

year, a sell. Analysts Melanie

Sharp and Andrew Burnett

is at its strongest since the

sizeable exposure to some of

segments. They see profits of

next. Brierley has 46 per cent

£78.5m this year and £88m

late 1980s Thistle has a

the least favourable

of the capital.

say although the hotel market

| quaintance with the advance and down among the little 'uns favourite insurer to encounter euphoria was conspicuous by its bid activity, shrugged off a neg- oil pitch despite lower crude To NO J F M A M J J A S O N Bupa, which bid 150p last the shares as a short term. Bupa, which bid 150p last the shares as a short term. |
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23/BUSINESS

In Japan's darkest hour, signs that the worst may be over



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HAMISH **MCRAE** ON THE BULL CASE FOR A BATTERED ECONOMY

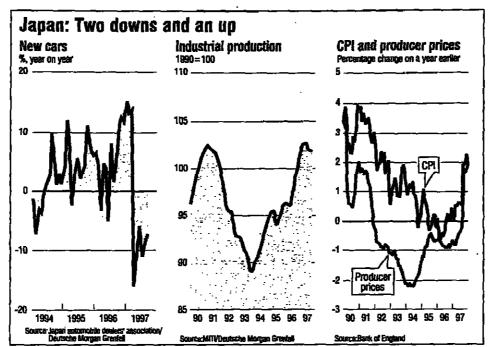
The moment when things look truly dreadful usually proves to be the turning point - just as the moment when the future looks been recovering nicely (middle most rosy is the moment to sell. Since everyone at the moment is so convinced that the Japanese bear market has further to al production seven years later run, dedicated contrarians ought at least to be considering that this is the moment to plunge back in. Absurd? Maybe. At least, too early? Quite possibly. But let's look at the bull case.

It is easier to start by thinking in terms of the economy rather than the share market, for two reasons. First, the particular characteristics of the Japancross-holdings and hence relathat can be traded mean that it is particularly vulnerable to cause the market has been so manipulated by the authorities so-called "price keeping operabefore an economic recovery is reflected in share prices.

Start with the bad news. If you look at the economy, the second quarter of this year was that the GDP of a developed economy declines at an annual rate of 11.2 per cent, but the Japanese one managed that in the second quarter. The culprit was a collapse in private consumption, down at annual rate of 21 per cent, in response to the rise in the sales tax. You can catch a feel for the scale of the disaster by looking at the first graph, showing registrations of new cars. These had been slowly recovering from the recession in 1994 and surged at the end of last year in anticipation of the rise in the tax. Then they fell off the cliff.

Inevitably this collapse in consumer demand has hit industrial production. We tend to forget that the Japanese manufacturers are much more dependent on the home market than ours: only 9 per cent of GDP is exported, against 28 per cent here. Until the beginning of this year manufacturing has graph). True, it was still below the peak of 1990, and if anyone had suggested in 1990 that industriwould be no higher, it would have been dismissed as absurd. Still, cover the left-hand side of the graph with your hand and it doesn't look bad at all. But now it is starting to nudge back down again, largely in response to domestic weakness.

So why, after this build-up, is there a case that the worst is over? Here are four reasons. First ese equity market, with its large and most important, the period of price destruction - that extively small proportion of stock pression which describes the process where Japanese companies were having to sell their mood swings. And second, be-products at ever-lower prices may be over. The graph on the right, from the Bank of England's during the first half of the 1990s latest Quarterly Bulletin, shows -being artificially proposed by the how both consumer and producer prices have quite suddention" - it might be some time ly pulled from negative to positive territory. If you are worried about inflation, fears of higher interest rates and all that, the move from falling to rising prices might seem bad news. But



dead-weight of debt on the books of both companies and banks, a little inflation is a very helpful thing, for it reduces the real size of the debt. Provided nominal rates do not rise in response, it also reduces real interest rates. A little inflation therefore is exactly what Japan needs.

Second, the collapse of demand in the second quarter ought to be a one-off affair. Deutsche Bank is now forecasting consumption rising at an annual rate of between 2 and 3 per cent through next year; nothing special but at least the sign is positive rather than negative.

Third, it looks as though the yen will continue to weaken. Do not expect this to have a material impact on the volume of exports, which will in any case be depressed by the chaos in East Asia. But it will help export profitability, and the sight of more profitable companies will boost corporate confidence, and in turn market confidence. For nearly two decades

Japanese companies have sold investors the line that profits are

Interest Rates

and investment was frequently wasted. Low returns on capital distinguished Japanese business from the rest of the world. Now the returns available on Japanese securities are becoming more "normal" as prices fall, but the usual argument is that further falls are necessary. That is right: you can make a case on those grounds below. But a rise in profitability, and more important, a shift in the corporate culture towards recognising the need for profits, means that present

levels look more reasonable. Finally, there is the mood of reform. Effective reform has largely been stalled by political opposition. One small sign that the impossible is becoming posthe government. The events vesterday do not in themselves support the sharp rise in the stock market, but I think the market is trying to tell us sometell us that the political consen-

ing reforms designed to appeal to foreigners, but a deep-seated culture of reform, which recognises past failure.

It is very difficult, if you

have an apparently successful economic model, to recognise that its run of success has come to an end. But until you do, all reforms are going to be halfhearted, dealing with symptoms for a Nikkei-Dow at 10,000 or rather than the underlying weakness. Back in the 1950s Japan experienced a period of dreadful labour unrest, similar to the trouble in Britain in the 1970s. This resulted in the cooperative model which drove Japan's commercial renaissance, just as the (very different) response to the British disease set in train the economic recovery in this country. I don't think that sible came with the bank collapse Japan Inc is quite ready yet to and subsequent intervention by confront its failure, but many people within Tokyo are certainly ready to do so. Eventually they will win the argument.

This may all be too early. Conventional wisdom is that thing more. I think it is trying to there is worse to come. But the darkest bour is just before unimportant and growth is what sus in Tokyo is shifting towards dawn, and it is pretty dark at the

PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

IOHN WILLCOCK



A nice young man called Jim O'Donnell is preparing to become a priest in the Roman Catholic Church. Nothing remarkable in that, you might say. Except that Mr O'Donnell is chief executive officer of HSBC James Capel in London and chief executive officer and president of HSBC Markets in New York.

Described by colleagues as "a very rich young man", Mr O'Donnell, 36, worked at NatWest before joining HSBC, where he has worked in his present transatlantic role for the last three years. The native New Yorker will give up control of the UK equities division this month and finally leave the bank in New York next summer.

His boss, Bernard Asher, says he wanted to inform staff of Mr O'Donnell's decision to leave the bank immediately rather than letting it leak out slowly. Mr Asher said: "He's been thinking about it for a considerable period. Its touching to see someone with such a vocation."

No successor has been selected yet, so Mr O'Donnell's deputy, Krishna Patel, will take over his responsibilities in the interim.

Speaking of leading City figures with vocations, it is a little known fact about Bob Diamond, chief executive of Barclays Capital (the investment banking division of the Barclays Group), that he was once a teacher. Mr Diamond fully intends to return to the groves of academe when he's finally had enough of the high stress world of capital markets.

So he was in his element yesterday showing a party of children from King Alfred's School in North London around the trading floor at Barclays Capital, Canary Wharf. "Your telephone bill must be very large,"

said one child on being told that part of the function of a trader is to burn the telephone line 24 hours a day to his counterparts in Tokyo, New York and Hong Kong.

Another asked for advice on how to invest his pocket money. "A potential client." Mr

Diamond gleefully proclaimed, hugging the child warmly. But the best question came from the boy who asked: "If you're chief executive, how come you look so young?" The challenge of revitalising Barclays Capital after the sale of BZW's equities and corporate finance businesses is plainly agreeing with Mr Diamond.

Robin Ellison, a partner with the law firm Eversheds, has been reported to the police by his local council for criminal damage, after he was allegedly seen painting over double yellow lines outside his home in Hampstead, London.

The strange incident happened last month during a legal dispute between Camden Council and Mr Ellison, according to The Lawyer magazine. The council wants to use the land as an access point for six units of "affordable housing".

A council employee, who was passing by, claims she saw a man fitting Mr Ellison's description, wearing jeans and a woolly jumper, brushing black point over the double yellow lines at the crack of dawn.

Earlier, according to Camden Council, Mr Ellison had erected bollards on the land, claiming it was his.

When the Council tried to remove them he took out an ex pane injunction. The injunction was overturned, and earlier this month he discontinued his claim to prove ownership of the land a week before the trial. Mr Ellison agreed to pay the council's costs.

Mr Ellison was unavailable for comment

John Rudgard has selected Michael Hughes. formerly of Guinness, to succeed him next January as chief executive of Bulmers, the cider maker which Mr Rudgard has served for the

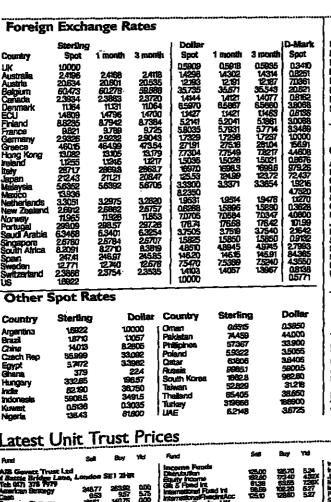
"I'm standing down at my own request. I've been chief executive for the last 10 years and I think it's time to hand over to a younger man," Mr Rudgard said yesterday.

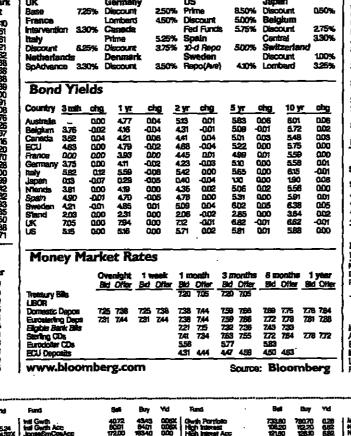
When he retires next year at the age of 58 Mr Rudgard will carry on with the usual mix of non-executive directorships and private investments common to senior businessmen. He will also devote more time to his one-ton sailing boat, called the Isithotinhere?

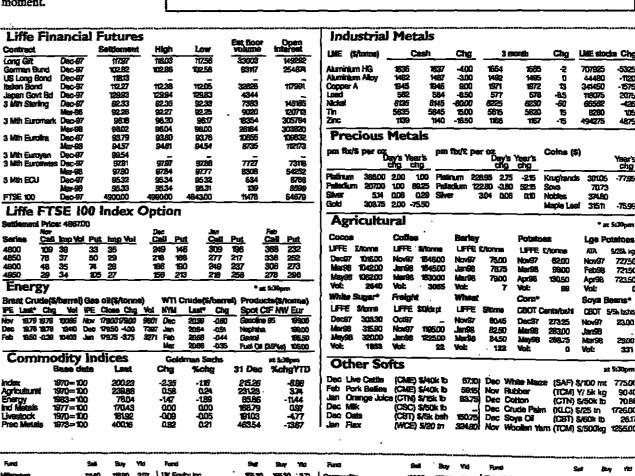
"It got its name because the only thing my wife and I argue about is the temperature inside our house," says Mr Rudgard.

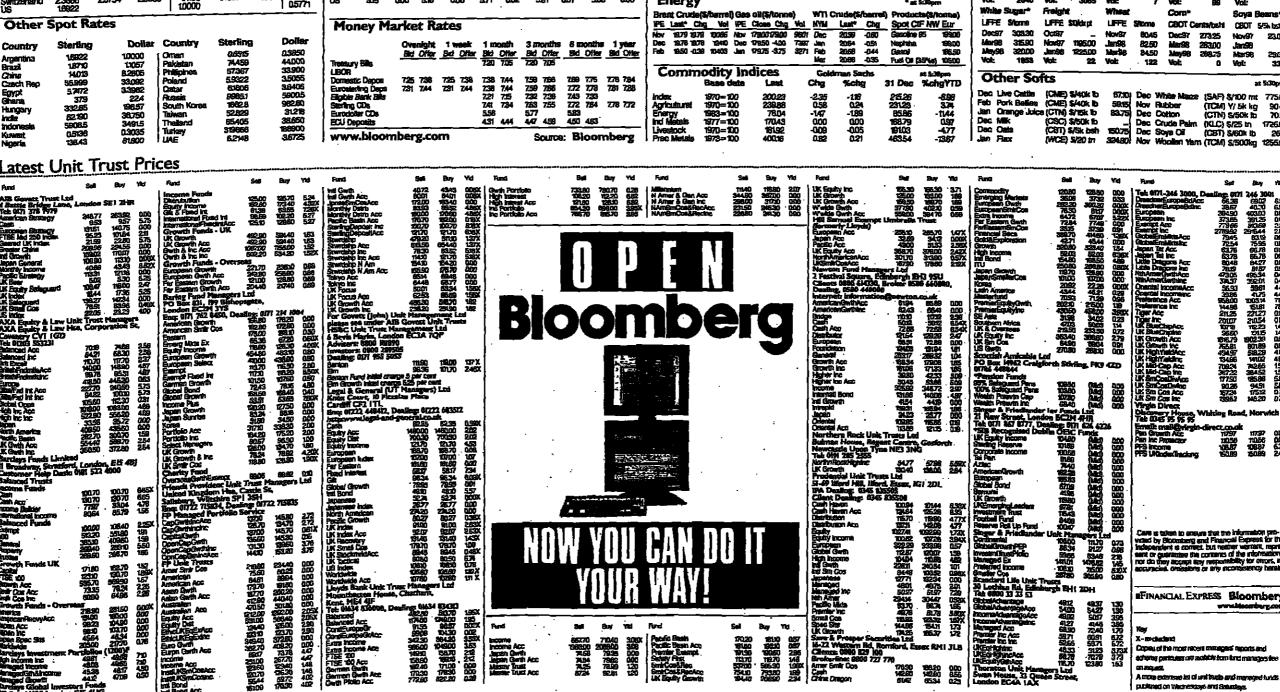
British Steel may be the highest yielding stock in the Footsie but there is one group of investors who don't seem to care that the shares have gone nowhere in the last 10 years. US investors now own 40 per cent of the company, having more than doubled their shareholdings in the last 11 months, oblivious to the meltdown in profits.

To thank them for their unstinting support. the British Steel chairman Sir Brian Moffat last night flew out to New York to host a slapup dinner, organised by Goldman Sachs and the Twenty One Club.











SPECIAL REPORT

Feelgood factor pushes British air fares to new high

An economic upturn has fuelled demand for constantly-improving levels of service. Businessmen themselves are delighted - which is more than can be said for their company accountants.

If you go down to the Executive Lounge at Heathrow Terminal Four today, you will find a couple of David Hockney originals decorating the north wall. These are not just intended to brighten up the place;

£34,000 respectively. When you consider that this is not the First Class or Concorde Lounge, but the venue for mainstream clear that the airlines feel that ness air fares have risen more awash with a feelgood factor er European country, according and hard cash.

On the opening day of the World Travel Market in Earl's Court, London, yesterday, leading travel industry figures were painting a glowing picture of prospects in the near future. This kind of confidence from suppliers can be disconcerting if you are a consumer.

"Historically, UK has had

they are for sale, at £28,000 and some of the lowest fares in Europe", says Kyle Davis, head of purchasing management for American Express. That difference has been eliminated." In the past two years, busi-

rapidly in Britain than in any oth-Transatlantic fares have risen 22 per cent in two years, with another 12 per cent rise expected for the coming year. Recent economic jitters in Asia are not expected to attenuate increases for easthound routes, either: a year from now, says Mr Davis, fares could rise 14 per cent.

On the supply side, one reason for the increase is the cost of providing higher quality. The battles to provide the greatest amount of legroom, the most comfortable seats or the swishest arrival lounge facilities have cost the airlines a fortune, and someone has to pay which is perhaps why the more relaxed and refreshed that business travellers appear, the less comfortable are company ac-

countants. The key to increased costs, though, is demand. Just as business travel retreats rapidly in a downturn, in a confident economic mood the amount of activity increases fiercely. Capacity - whether in top-class hotels, or in business-class on aircraft departing Heathrow - is constrained, and as in any market the price rises accordingly.

It wasn't supposed to be like this, at least within Europe. This spring, full "cabotage" took effect in the European Union. The Paris, become much more at-

man responsible, Transport Commissioner Neil Kinnock, told me what this means in principle: "Civil aviation carriers

es are based in the European a cheap, cheerful yet businesswhose business-Union, will have the right to like sojourn in Brussels. trade anywhere in the Union, stopping off in as many places as they want to regardless of na-

tional boundaries." fect for the business traveller Some travellers, though, rehas been strictly marginal. An Irish airline, Ryanair, now flies from Stansted in Essex to a couple of obscure airports in Sweden and Norway, which it labels "Stockholm South" and "Oslo South" respectively. A pair of entrepreneurs from southern Europe are opening up Luton as a cut-price gateway. British Airways itself announced yesterday that it planned to launch its own no-frills airline offering cheap fares to Europe.

But what hinders the plans of Stelios Haji-Iaonnou of easy-Jet and Franco Mancassola of Debonair is that Heathrow and Gatwick are the first choices for most business travellers. These two airports have achieved the critical mass that permits frequent services; if you miss the Heathrow departure to JFK. there will be another one along in an hour - if not sconer.

There's a good chance that the aircraft you fly on will be operated by American Airlines or British Airways. But the alliance which both are keen to form is still stacking over Brussels, waiting for the congestion of competition legislation to clear. Meanwhile the Star Alliance is up and flying, with business travellers able to benefit from through check-in and easy transfers on some of the world's

leading airlines, including Luftbansa and United Airlines. Virgin Atlantic is proving

. for Britain's ent to Europe's Salport has never

en From June,

Express Supplify marrage

energine, says

AND THOUSE

ish the ections for least. A to Heathron

promiscuous: having just got out of bed with Delta on its transatlantic code-shares, it is now snuggling up to Continental Airlines - while maintaining its long-standing relationship with Malaysia Airlines.

Some time before the end of the year, these flights will become easier to catch for people travelling from Central London. The first stage of the Heathrow Express starts running soon, presaging the 15-minute journey from Paddington that is planned for next June. As the survey of links to the airport shows (opposite), the new ser-

vice cannot begin soon enough. What happens, though, when you get there? As the parties involved in the longest-running planning inquiry in history know all too well, Heathrow is running at full capacity and a fifth terminal - if agreed - will not be operating until some years into the next millermium. Yet, as Neil Taylor argues on page 27, Britain's business travellers are overlooking the increasing opportunities to fly from local airports that are presently showing an embarrassing amount of

spare capacity. The third London "airport", meanwhile, is looking increasingly like Waterloo International. On 14 December, Eurostar services from London to Brussels accelerate by half an hour. This should mean that services to the Belgian capital. so long the poor relation to

business traveller. And to BY SIMON the company accountant. **CALDER** too, if you fol-

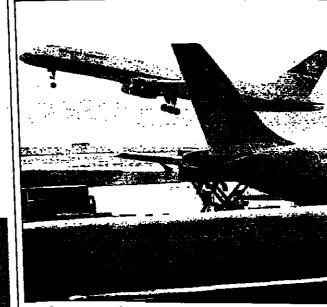
Most "proper" business hotels are reaping the rewards of the economic upswing, charging high rates for increasingly In practice, though, the efgret the increasing homogenisation of the business hotel; on page 26, Rhiannon Batten offers more bomely alternatives for visitors to Europe's premier business city, London.

You cannot, for the forseeable future, pay for your London hotel with the euro. While politicians bicker about Britain's participation, transaction costs continue to add considerably to the cost of doing business abroad. David Watts suggests (opposite) how plastic can take ark Estarta

×

some of the strain. The first opportunity that many British business travellers will have to use the euro will be on the Heathrow Express, a development that shows the foresightedness of at least some

some of Britain's rail operators. The railway is a 19th-century innovation that is undergoing a resurgence (post-privatisation problems within the UK notwithstanding). Another 19thcentury development, telecommunication, is girdling the globe with high-speed digital links. But predictions that telecommuting and video-conferencing will replace business travel appear unfounded. Just as touring art galleries on the Internet will never match the joy of a Hockney original, nothing can beat a face-to-face meeting



On the up: over the past two years business air fares from Britain have risen sharply

Because we offer over 30 destinations in Spain and more than 20 in Latin America.

Because we have one of the world's most modern fleets. Because we have over 70 years flying experience. Because, day

after day, more than 22,000 people give their best, so that you can enjoy the service and attention you deserve.

Because we've become Europe's fourth largest airline. Because we'd like to be the airline of your choice when flying to

Spain and Latin America.

Leading the way to Spain and Latin America.

The Heathrow Express will be along next year. But for now ...

Getting from Britain's biggest city to Europe's busiest airport has never been easy. From June, the Heathrow Express should simplify matters. In the meantime, says Simon Calder, the competitors for leasthad way to Heathrow are many and various.

So you think you know your airport codes, from ABZ (Aberdeen) via LHR (Heathrow) to ZAG (Zagreb)? OK, then, identify QQP.

The trick in this question is that OOP is not an airport at all, but a railway station - Paddington, London W2, to be precise. But from next June, the code will begin to appear on air tickets. The shortest "flight" possible from Heathrow airport should be the 15-minute connection to central London. Within a year of the start-up, through check-in of baggage will be a reality, and QQP to YYZ (Paddington to Toronto) should

The Heathrow Express link is basically a case of Britain's biggest airport catching up row Fast Train. This will involve with the rest of the Europe. From Gatwick and Manchester to Frankfurt and Zurich. high-speed rail links are de rigueur for any self-respecting airport.

Heathrow's owner, BAA, has set itself the ambitious task of 50 per cent of passengers arriving at the airport by public transport.

Starting next summer, trains will run from Paddington station to the airport four times an hour from dawn until late. The trip to the central area (Terminals One, Two and Three) should take a flat 15 minutes, with Terinal Four five minutes further n. If your airline has not included QQP on your itinerary, you can pay for the trip on board - or pay in several currencies, including the euro, at ticket machines.



In theory, the tube should represent the simplest and most efficient means of getting

pected to be introduced before the end of the year: the Heatha train from Paddington to a new station, Heathrow Junction, and a bus from there to the terminals. The scheduled journey time is 30 minutes, and the fare will be £5. When the Heathrow Express finally be-

In the meantime, all the other options have been considered for the most comprehensive survey so far of airport links. I have spent the year sampling alternative ways to cover the 15 miles from the Eurostar terminal at Waterloo to Heathrow. To maintain a level runway, I set a rule to avoid

are rated out of a maximum 10. It hasn't been fun, it hasn't been clever, but it has been in-

What could be better than being picked up right outside the airport terminal by a big red right outside the airport terminal by a big red bus that goes straight to London, rather than cruising around the rest of the airport first.

Airbus Al is an extra-luxupassing Terminal Two about 15 minutes after you left it.

Once on the motorway, need to jump into a cab.

Fare: £6 bus fare plus £4 cab fare. Time: 60 minutes. Stress

or Heathrow, you can expect a route than by any other.

ntes, Stress factor: 1.

Bicycle.

to Heathrow airport, you head more or less due west. This happens to be counter to the prevailing winds. But a bike removes all potential problems with public transport and traffic congestion. All goes fine until the last half-mile, which is through the tunnel beneath the northern runway. Until three years ago, this was a dedicated cycle/pedestrian route; then it was opened up to cars, which chase the unfortunate cyclist as in the film Duel - through the tunnel.

Cycling from Waterloo station

Fare: nil. Time: 80 minutes. Stress factor: I until the tunnel,

Hitch-hiking

This has genuinely been a quest to cover all the options. Starting to thumb from outside Waterloo station is not a sensible prospect. So I took the tube to Turnham Green, walled down to Chiswick High Road and out to the start of the M4. Even with a sign reading "Heathrow Please - flight at 10.45", it took three lifts to reach the airport. Not recommended, except as a

Pare: £1.80. Time: 120 minutes. Stress factor: 7.

The cheapest public transport option is also the riet and Jonathan were doing smoothest - once you have dragged yourself out of bed. Start walking across Hungerford Bridge at around 4.15am. The 4.35am departure of bus N97 from Trafalgar Square, with its curious cargo of clubbers, cleaners and airport personnel, trundles around west London before winding up at Heathrow's central bus station.

Fare: £1.20. Time: 90 minutes. Stress factor: 8 upon waking up; 1 for the journey itself. Stretched fimousine

After an overnight flight from San Francisco, I couldn't quite figure out what my friends Har- It had to happen. For each of went; nobody told we poor pas-

the above experiments, I alflight. For what should have been the easiest of the lot, I trusted in the schedules.

Bus lanes along the motorway certainly speed up the journey to the airport – but if

you're unlucky you could find yourself being taken round the houses at Heathrow itself

half-a-dozen other pals popped The task was simple: my flight was just before noon, so ordinary airport transfer. The I had to arrive at Heathrow at Moët was first to be cracked open, followed shortly by a 10am would, I was assured. particularly robust Stolichnaya. provide plenty of time.

What better way to end a hon-It was all going remarkably well until just past Earl's Court, Fare: too polite to ask. Time: when the train began to stop bewho cares. Stress factor: nil, though it is surprising the gestween stations for no apparent reason. At Acton Town, the Pictures one gets from less well-encadilly Line equivalent of purdowed road users. gatory, it paused for 15 minutes while two other trains came and

sengers that crossing the platlowed plenty of time to catch the form might enhance our chances of catching our flights.

Eventually the train arrived at 11.30am. When the doors slid open, the scene resembled an Olympic sprint final as everyone rushed for their flight. In the race 11.10am. Leaving Waterloo at to Terminal One, I trailed in a poor third behind a sprightly Aer Lingus stewardess and a redfaced German businessman.

The flight had already closed.

With competitors like the Piccadilly Line, the Heathrow Express need have no fear about its chances of success. Fare: £3,20, Time: 90 min-

utes. Stress factor: 10.

to Heathrow. In practice it can be one of the longest - and most stressful

The Heathrow Express was Airbus due for completion this year, but because of tunnelling problems at the airport it is not now planned to open until June bus? Answer being picked up 1998. A stop-gap scheme is ex-

gins, the trip length should be halved and the fare will probably double.

peak travel times. Stress factors

rious double-decker that collects passengers from outside the arrivals hall and deposits them at Victoria station, Unfortunately, if you board at Terminal Two then you will see a lot of Heathrow - including a littleknown coach station around the back of Terminal Three - before

though, you can expect a smooth, fast trip into London. To reach Waterloo, you will

than 30 minutes, and the airport is a half-hour hike from there. I Whether you start at Waterloo felt more relaxed arriving by this

Psst! Wanna change money? No

queue. But a cab is a reliable,

cent tip. Time: 40 minutes.

Take the Bakerloo Line north-

bound from Waterloo to dis-

cover the existing fast(-ish) link

from Paddington station. Hop

on a "Thames Turbo" to Hayes

& Harlington, step up from the

station and climb aboard the bus

to Heathrow Central. This jour-

ney sounds messy, but if the con-

nections work it can be swifter

utes (though if you just miss the

train or the bus it could be a

quarter-hour longer). Stress

factor: 3 (though this could

double if the connections falter).

If your destination is Terminal

Four and you are travelling light,

this is the ideal link. A train from

Waterloo to Feltham takes less

mote corner of the world with

nothing but your flexible friend

for company, check with the

card provider on the level of

coverage you can expect in your destination. If your cards

work through the Visa or Mas-

terCard system then you've got

from ATMs or cash advances

over the counter from local banks. It's just one transaction and most cards charge a com-

mission less than or equal to ex-

change bureaux. You may also

be able to make purchases di-

rectly with no commission or

handling charge, in such cases

my card uses an equivalent sell

rate adjusted by just 2.65 per

cent from the spot rate. Con-

siderably better than most ex-

change bureaux, which take

4-10 per cent, depending on the

ellers cheques are popular be-

cause part of the cost goes

towards insuring them, so if

they're lost or stolen they're re-

placed. But is the cost justified?

Your normal travel insurance

should cover the loss of sever-

al hundred pounds worth of

cash, so you can benefit from

the lower costs of using your

cards to get currency, confident

Despite their expense, trav-

You can get local currency

most of the globe covered.

South West Trains

Fare: £5.10. Time: 60 min-

Fare: £38 including a 10 per

if expensive, link.

Stress factor: 2.

Thames Trains

than the Tube.

www.easyjet.com

turning up at dawn at Heathrow.

When the 40-ft limousine

turned up at the kerbside, and

out, I realised this was not your

Geneva£59

Nice

Amsterdam Barcelona **Nice** Palma de Mallorca Edinburgh Aberdeen Inverness Glasgow Liverpool to **Amsterdam**

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All fares single and include an unfair £10 Government Tax. Airport Tax should be a % of the fare!

foreign trips can be a

thanks, I've got my flexible friend

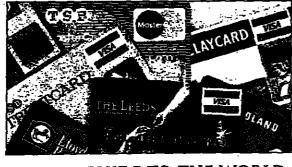
time-consuming and costly business. But with plastic cards now accepted almost everywhere, it is also becoming unnecessary, argues David Watts.

Changing money on

Money, money, money. It is the raison d'etre of business travel, and also indispensable to go anywhere further than your desk. But until the euro becomes established, the average business traveller will continue to battle with conversion rates and bureaux de change, preferably without losing too much of the company's cash in transaction costs.

As a basic rule of thumb, the answer is to exchange your money as few times as possible. Paying more commission than you need is just giving money away. Each time, you lose about five per cent because of the buy and sell rate spread used by exchange bureaux. Travellers' cheques can be even more expensive than currency notes since you pay commission to buy em and then there is often a harge to turn them back into cash. Travellers' cheques denoted in currency also have their value eroded by the buy and sell rates applied. If you add up all these charges and devaluations over the course of a business trip, you've probably given away the equivalent of a slap-up dinner or two for valuable contacts.

A Single European currency would have some advanlages for travellers by getting rid of the need to change money when making trips between member countries. Of course, things would still cost varying amounts in the different counfries but the euro in your pocket would be the same, so all the exchange costs and confusion would be gone. But why want for re politicians? You can aleady simplify your travelling fi-



PLASTIC GUIDE TO THE WORLD

 Paying with plastic: places where you can expect to pay by credit card for most tourist/business needs, where perhaps you wouldn't expect to be able to: Colombia, Peru, Philippines, Thailand, Venezuela.

Paying with plastic: places where you rarely can, where perhaps you would expect to be able to: Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, the Gambia, Hungary.

 Getting cash: places that offer tourist-friendly Automatic Teller Machines, where perhaps you wouldn't expect them: Colombia, Mexico, Turkey.

 Gerting cash: places that don't offer tourist-friendly Automatic Teller Machines, where perhaps you would expect them; Belize, Brazil (though Visa is acceptable in some places), Costa Rica, Japan (though MasterCard is becoming increasingly acceptable), New Zealand, Switzerland (Master Card more likely to be accepted than

■ Where MasterCard is more acceptable than Visa: Egypt, Germany, Switzerland.

 Where Visa is more acceptable than MasterCard: Cyprus, Gibraltar, Philippines, Poland, United Arab Emirates.

● Where any US-issued credit card is unacceptable: Cuba.

Compiled from information supplied by Barclaycard, and trovellers' reports.

nances and make them cheapsingle monetary system already operates around the globe and offers competitive exchange rates, low charges and great ver-

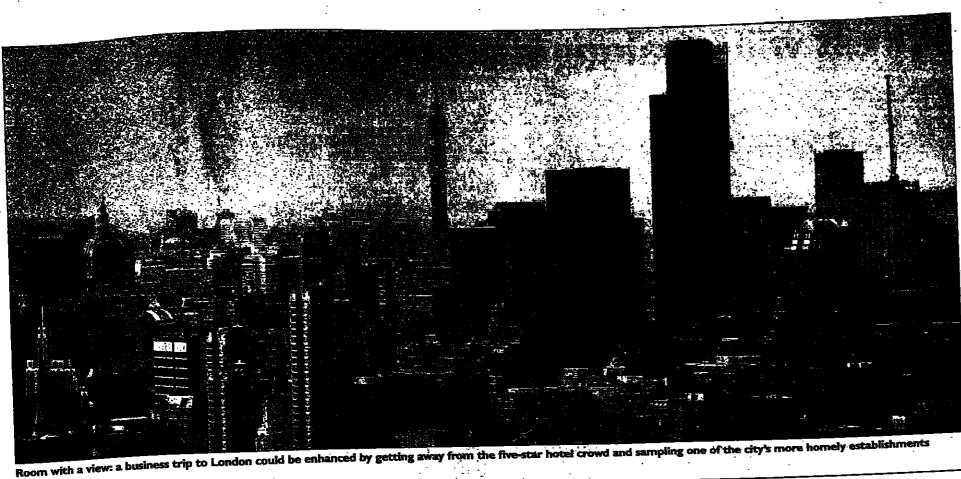
Plastic cards have been the mainstay of my travel finances dawn of the 21st century sure-

ly the time when electronic er - and not just in Europe. A money is the norm for travellers must be just around the corner. A small amount of local currency is useful when you first arrive in a country, and a couple of travellers' cheques will act as a safety net in emergencies, but credit and debit cards should do for several years, and at the the job the rest of the time. Yet before you head off to some re- you get back.

in the knowledge that your wealth is still protected. Plastic cards are also much more useful than cash or travellers' cheques when booking flights or hotels, since one phone call will confirm the deal. If you're relying on pieces of paper, your seat or bed may be sold to another business traveller because you can't hand

ue, bulging wallets. Just simple, modern technology. All you have to do is pay the bill when

over the money until you arrive. Add the benefit of the travel and purchase insurance that you get with many cards and you must be on to a winner. No ordering of money in advance, no trip to the bank to collect and sign the travellers' cheques, no carrying high-val-



THE GREAT PRE-CHRISTMAS AIRFARE SALE

Franco says "When the phone lines go crazy by cutting prices, you gotta help out." Nice*

One way fares based on round-trip purchase.

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Barcelona from

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Madrid from

Munich Franco Mancassola Chairman, Debonair from Milan (Bergamo) from Rome

debonair D We're opening up the skies. Call now on 0541 500 300

Fares are one way based on round-trip purchase from London Luton with Saturday night stay required. Prices exclude tax and subject to availability with limited seats. Tickets are non-refundable and non-company based on round-trip purchase from London Luton with Saturday night stay required. Prices exclude tax and subject to availability with limited seats. Tickets are non-refundable and non-company based on round-trip purchase from London Luton with Saturday night stay required. Prices exclude tax and subject to availability with limited seats. Tickets are non-refundable and non-company based on round-trip purchase from London Luton with Saturday night stay required. Prices exclude tax and subject to availability with limited seats. Tickets are non-refundable and non-company based on round-trip purchase from London Luton with Saturday night stay required.

In London, small can be beautiful

London remains Britain and Europe's premier business city. But what alternatives are there to faceless chain hotels? Rhiannon Batten checks out some less conventional but characterful - places to check in.

Hazlitt's, 6 Frith Street (0171-

434 1771) The inside of the hotel is so contrasting to the surrounding chaos of Soho that the first impression is one of complete surprise. A staircase takes you up from the elegant townhouse entrance as if you were entering the home of a wealthy relative, stuffed with interesting four poster beds to try out, pictures to peer at and unusual furnishings to toy with.

The bookcase in the drawing room is impressively filled with the books of famous authors who've stayed here. Each of the cosy rooms is packed with sturdy antique furniture and almost all the bathrooms are equipped with pretty freestanding baths. The only slight fault is that rooms at the front may be rather noisy. Single rooms cost £115, double rooms £148 and the one suite available £205. The prices do not include VAT or breakfast, which is

Number Sixteen, 16 Sumner Place (0171-589 5232) The entrance of this hotel is currently marked out by lavender and rose tubs and the place is full of fresh flowers. The rooms are each named after a different colour with shades such as suede and lemon giving the impression that you've stepped into the Dulux catalogue. From the sound of a fountain lapping away in the garden to the sunny coloured drawing room, all

in all this is a very relaxing setting. The rooms are homely but oozing with style and the garden and conservatory are a real haven. Single rooms cost £\$0-115 and doubles £150-180. The price includes continental breakfast and VAT.

The Bulldog Club (0171-341

Costs £25 for annual membership and operates like a five star bed and breakfast organisation. Membership entitles you to stay in one of the homes on its list, either in London or in the countryside and all the properties are equivalent to five-star standard. Visitors receive the usual benefits of staying in a plush hotel, including full British breakfast, and all the London properties cost £95 per night for a double room with private bathroom down to £65 per night for a single room with shared bathroom.

The Beaufort, 33 Beaufort Gardens (0171-584 5252) The hotel atmosphere is very warm and informal, rather as if you've stepped into someone else's house, with apples on the coffee table and children under the sofa. You're given a front door key on arrival and the hotel looks like a well-kept private house on a pretty Georgian square. Room prices range from £130 for a small single with shower to £185 for a large double with bath and shower. These prices don't include VAT but they do include continental breakfast, telephone and fax services, 24 hour champagne, service, afternoon tea and all drinks. Deluxe doubles and the junior suite cost £230 and £240, not including VAT. Crucially for the business traveller, other facilities include access to a nearby health club, light snacks during the day and airport pick-up or drop-off.

You don't have to break the bank to be in business abroad

For those without an unlimited expenses account, there are cheaper options - and they are not all bad, as Sue Wheat discovered while attending a conference in Brussels.

Not everybody who travels on business has a big expense account. Some of us are instructed to keep our expenses to a minimum - and that doesn't mean just leaving the mini-bar intact. In my case, travelling to a conference in Brussels on behalf of two charities I was representing, meant finding the cheapest accommodation I could, without jeopardising my professional performance the

next day. Maison Internationale at 205 Chausee de Wavre near the centre of Brussels, was the option I chose. Some might scorn it as a youth hostel by any other name. But it is in fact perfectly positioned for anyone visiting the European Parliament and meeting with MEPs, business people and lobby-ists, based in the area. (This could explain why business people vastly outnumbered backpackers.) Turn left out of the hostel, walk for five minutes past various building sites and you are in the hub of the European Parliament's administration.

Maison Internationale's facilities are perfectly adequate although business people with primadonna-like tendencies would do best to stay away. When you arrive (check-in before 11pm) you rent clean sheets and pillow cases for 125 francs, (£2) can make yourself a hot drink, buy a beer from the bar, or relax in your room.

You don't have to share a dorm - I splashed out and went for a single room (BF660

including breakfast). No matter how hard you hunt, a TV will not be found - so a good book is necessary. Bathroom and shower facilities are shared and perfectly clean. Breakfast - which included cereal, toast, meats, cheeses and tea or coffee - competed well with other hotel breakfasts I've had, although washing up your own plates and cutlery is probably a morning activity we could all do

without before a 9am meeting. Finding Maison Internationale was probably the most difficult part of my stay. When I phoned to book from London and asked which underground station it was near, the man on reception responded with Basil Fawity-style unhelpfulness: "I do not know, Madam - I live 80 km away." When I pressed him, he finally informed me that it was near Trone metro. The walk from Trone to the hostel takes about 20 minutes - not particularly easy if you have luggage, if it is at night, and your map is of guide book quality. I only realised the full extent of his unhelpfulness however, when on leaving the hostel I found out that I could have got a train directly from Brussels' central train station to Gare du Quartier Leopold - only two minutes' walk from the hostel. Trone is indeed the nearest metro, but the train is the most sensible way of getting there.

One and a half days of intense lobbying left me exhausted and without any energy to use my remaining afternoon window shopping in Brussels. I returned to Maison Internationale and went up to the roof garden. Here I stretched out on a garden bench, used my briefcase as a pillow, and, warmed by the autumn sun, slept for two hours. Judging by my brief trip around Brussels, it is one of the few green areas available to relax in.

Maison Internationale. Tel. 00 32 2 648 9787

Regional airports still waiting in the wings

With Heathrow and Gatwick at full capacity. Britain has plenty of less crowded alternative airports. But, writes Neil Taylor, business travellers are failing to take advantage of their ocal facilities.

"Born Again". Most Bristolians will have confronted this slogan which took up the prime city-centre poster sites abandoned by the political parties after the election in May.

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Few can have guessed which product felt it needed messianic zeal to promote itself - it was in fact what used to be the local airport. However the message was now very different. Gone was Lulsgate and here was Bristol International, following Rhoose and Turnhouse now similarly metamorphosed into Cardiff and Edinburgh. A recent candid press release from Bristol Airport shows the battle it still has to fight with Heathrow and Gatwick. Although there are five flights a day from Bristol to Amsterdam, (in 1996 74,000 people from the South West still chose to fly from Heathrow.

Regional airports now have to wage several battles simultaneously.

Firstly figures such as these show how they have to fight local ignorance about the scheduled services they offer. Secondly they have to fight each other to encourage new airlines to start an international service. Once airlines make such a move, few result in failure. Air UK/KLM and Aer Lingus pioneered such routes, Air France, Sabena and SAS have followed. Manchester has also been successful in ioneering long-haul routes to North America and to East

Thirdly, these airports are rivals for overlapping custom. Thousands of potential passay Prestwick and Glasgow, or living south of the Thames gives a newly-enhanced mean-



Long haul: Manchester airport has successfully introduced routes to North America and East Asia

Manchester and Liverpool. East would have preferred the Anglia is a battleground between Cambridge and Nor-

In seducing custom from Heathrow and Gatwick they all have the same, but effective baits such as cheap or free carparking, shorter check-in times, good public transport links and above all, the absence of the

A rather different agenda applies to Luton and Stansted airports. Fog recently diverted an Estonian Air flight from Gatwick to Luton. I expect many of the Estonians on board were happier to arrive at an airport closer in size to Tallinn than the more formidable Gatwick. Any British person not ing to "folie de grandeur".

British Airways must have an quicker journey home and the increasingly difficult task in non-payment of a Gatwick Express ticket. Low-cost carriers such as Debonair, easyJet and Ryanair have introduced many travellers to these airports and as these airlines continue to expand, the airports will thrive with them to the detriment of both English regional airports and the other London ones. The main difficulty for Lu-

ton and Stansted has been to convince foreign carriers that they are a more sensible London alternative both for the UK market and for their own. The number of over-subsidised national airlines quite happy to pay high charges for hopeless slots at Heathrow and Gatwick migration controllers combined with quite rightly zealous Heathrow air traffic controllers all too often lead to a failed con-

maintaining and winning custom outside London whenever transfers at Heathrow are involved. The airline's current winter timetable might seem to offer many logical routings - Inverness to Amsterdam via Lonof charge regional equivalents) don for instance - but the small has a tortuous half page trying print reveals a three-hour wait to explain which passengers at Heathrow, and of course need to use their Flight Conconceals the direct flight opernections Centre and which do ated by rival Air UK which flies Inverness-Amsterdam non-stop

in one hour 35 minutes. Glaswegians returning from Moscow may be tempted by the 75-minute connecting time allowed between Heathrow Terminal Four and Terminal One but over-zealous Russian im-

native to Heathrow. Amsterdam used to sell itself as the fourth London airport before Stansted and City became serious challengers. It now not nection and future business only has competitors in the UK via Copenhagen, Amsterdam or but also many in mainland Europe. Copenhagen and Helsin-The latest "Heathrow Flight ki have creamed off most of the and Travel Information Guide" Baltic and CIS traffic; Dublin (which costs £1, unlike its free

vices as an incentive to use Aer Lingus regional links. When can regional airports finally claim success? Clearly when they finally persuade not. It wisely omits altogether Londoners to abandon their adinformation on minimum condiction to Heathrow or Gatnecting times to allow eight wick. If 74,000 travellers from pages for a list of every shop in the West Country "enjoy" a every terminal. In contrast to journey to Heathrow, what this, all regional airports revel in promoting single terminal in the opposite direction? continental hubs as an alter-

even offers US immigration ser-

Some handy hints for haggling with the airlines

Plenty of books claim to offer the secret of cut-price air travel. But until he read

Hugo van Reijen's book, Simon Calder treated them all with disdain. Now he's first in the check-in queue for Karachi.

Declaration of interest: I have met Hugo van Reijen, author of Why Not Fly Cheaper? In fact, I very recently bought him a drink. But that was mainly to thank him for writing the closest that the business traveller will get to a Bible (besides the Gideon edition that still appears in many hotel

rooms).

You may think that Why Not Fly Cheaper? is a book or article. or much-faxed document that you have already read. But Mr van Reijen's paperback is brand new and anything but trivial. It is not a book for amateurs, but a manual for people who have found themselves in the wrong departure lounge, or on the wrong flight, or in the wrong class, once too often.

"If you request a fare quote from five different employees in the same airline office, you will most of the time get five different fare quotes, especially if the journey is slightly complicated", says Mr van Reijen. The secret is to know how to interpret the extraordinary complexity of air fare regulations to your maximum advantage, and that is where the book can belp.

Take note, though: if all you want is the cheapest return trip from Manchester to Madrid or Stansted to Stockholm, then just phone around. Why Not Fly Cheaper? is intended to exploit the official rules that the airlines have established for themselves on multi-sector itineraries.

The basic rule is that anyone does it take to encourage one paying full fare is entitled to a great deal more than just tran-



Hugo van Reijen: a keen eye for the best buys

don, with a fare of £134. For the same amount you can stop off for the day in Manchester, aucording additional meetings and piling up extra Air Miles for zero cosi. Once you look beyond Britain and take into account currency fluctuations, the savings become much more dramatic. A partic-

sportation from A to B. Take a

simple trip like Edinburgh-Lon-

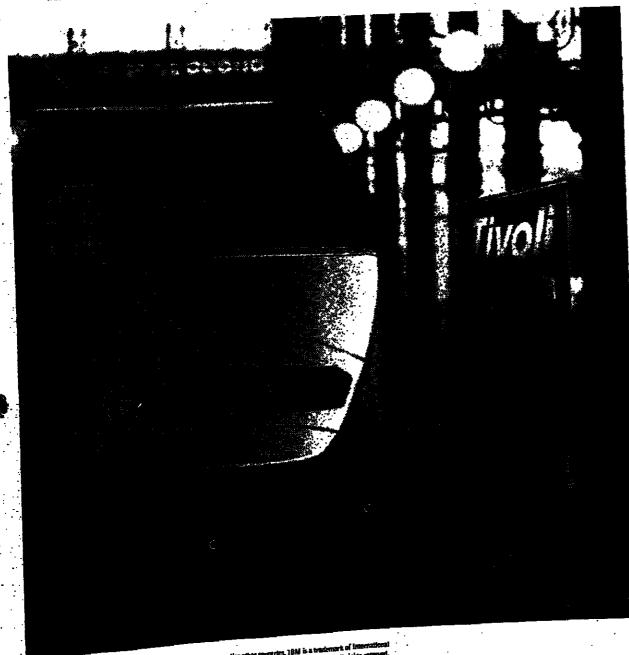
ular favourite of Mr van Reijen is the "Navigator" pass, price £1,199 off-season, which allows 28,500 miles of travel so long as you touch a point in the South The book explains the theories of "maximum permitted

mileage" an. "directional minimum check", and how best to deal with them. I ne current best buys are to be found in Pakistan, where official fares to all manner of destinations are much lower than in Britain. Islamabad-London-Buenos Aires in business class, for example, is about half the rate for the ticket between the UK and Argentinian capitals

"I got last week a letter from a couple of honeymooners. They had flown to Pakistan specifically to buy intercontinental tickets". Mr van Reijen recalls. Half an hour later, I booked my ticket to

Why Not Fly Cheaper? by Hugo van Reijen is published by Airlife Publishing, 101 Longden Road, Shrewsbury SY3 9EB.

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Truth is too hard to bear for Britain

Australia's latest series victory against Great Britain has served as a sobering reminder that Super League's global pretensions ring hollow. Rugby league, says Dave Hadfield, now has to bridge a yawning credibility gap here.

The most disturbing aspect of the Test series against Australia which finished on Sunday is not that Great Britain lost but that so many people believe there must have been something fishy about the one match

they won. If I had a quid for everyone - usually, but not always, from outside the game - who told me during the week between the second and third Tests that Britain's victory at Old Trafford was a fix, I would have a tidy little stake for a few side-bets of my own.

There is always this whisper whenever a series goes into its final Test conveniently poised at one-all, as has happened every time since 1988.

As befits an organisation born of conspiracy, there is also a faint whiff of corporate collusion about Super League, a feeling that events might just be contrived for the greater good.

And then there is the disparity between Australia's displays in the second and third Tests. That no doubt convinced a few waverers that there was indeed something amiss. How on earth could Great Britain have beaten this lot without some sinister intervention?

Well, I refer you to the words of the Australian captain, Laurie Daley. "Absolute garbage," he said. "There's no way in the world we went out at Old Trafford to lose. We just weren't good enough to win on the day.'

Apart from the fact that Daley is a natural straightshooter, there is proof that this is the truth. He and his team had a week off planned if they had won at Old Trafford and sealed the series; and there is no force in the world that could persuade a group of Australian sportsmen to trade in a week on the grog for a week

I rest my case. But what does it say about the credibility of the game that a sizeable minority of people could think it possible that the match could have been thrown? Nothing very flattering, I fear.

And, of course, credibility is the name of the game whenever we assess the latest round of damage done by the Australians. They have inflicted more pain this year than most, trouncing British teams in the World Chub Championship and then defeating the national side in a Test series for the 12th time

It is too familiar a scenario to induce any surprise, but in the aftermath of Old Trafford there were those who allowed themselves to dream of the galvanising effect that finally beating them would have.

Yes, it would have been great fun. But it would have obscured a great many things that are wrong the steepest decline in the game in this country came immediately



Stuck in the middle: Great Britain's Chris Joynt is overpowered by Australia defenders at Elland Road

after the 1970 Ashes victory our last - in Australia.

We could have lost sight of the fact that in a game supposedly full-time professional at its highest level, most of its clubs are run with shambolic amateurism and incompetence. We would have been liable to forget that the sport's central administration cannot devise a strategy and stick to it for more than five minutes.

Instead, the way that our best players - the ones who have made the most of themselves despite the woefully uneven competition in which they play - were overrun in the first

half at Elland Road stands as an eloquent reminder of how much there is to do.

After the débacle of Great Britain's tour to the South Pacific last year, there were plenty of things about our approach to international rugby that needed to be said. Strangely, the report from the tour manager, Phil Lowe, that should have said them never appeared.

This time, the conclusions should be brought out into the open and a commitment made to following them through. For a start, as the League's chief executive, Maurice Lindsay, has already conceded, the Great

Britain squad needs to become something more permanent than the loose agglomeration of coaches and players which gets

opposition is appearing over the horizon. The Great Britain coach, Andy Goodway, also wants to introduce an intermediate level of competition for aspiring international players - a national B team that could play

together only when foreign

developing league countries. Of course, this all costs money and the catastrophic way in which the News Ltd hand-out was doled out to clubs so expert at wasting it has

ensured that there is nothing in any central pot with which to

The lesson of the WCC and this Test series has been that international competition even one-sided international competition - attracts coverage in areas that are not normally saturated in rugby league.

But Super League's "global vision" remains an unproven boast. Next year is supposed to feature a World Cup. More worrying than the usual concern about how Britain will perform are hints that the competition may not even take

Time to capitalise on the game's strengths

It is disappointing to have lost yet another series to Australia, but we should not look at the deciding game at Elland Road in isolation. For 10 years Great Britain teams have been capable of competing at this level on occasion. But what we don't have to do is play at that level week after week.

Players like Andy Farrell are as good as any in the world. Simon Haughton showed what a prospect he is and Kris Radlinski's defence was brilliant.

But they suffer from what I found when I played at Wigan. We could play St Helens one week and the intensity of that was as great as in any match anywhere. After that, however, you could have three relatively easy matches, which only serve to develop bad habits in players.

We still produce the quality of players, but not the quantity - and this is something to do with the quality of coaching, not just at firstteam level but right down to the under-10s.

And we should not rely too much on the excuse that, compared with Australia, we are drawing on a relatively small population for our players. There are organisations which overcome that problem. A football team such as Ajax, for instance, has a relatively small catchment area. but, because it has the right coaching structures, the Dutch club has one of the best

production lines in the game. Australia do have an advantage, because even the people coaching small children have a good grounding in the game. It is part of their culture; they hear Peter Sterling on television every week. explaining the technicalities.



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In Britain, we rely on willing volunteers, of whatever standard or level of knowledge. One way to increase our player pool is to try to attract those who have not made it in other sports. They might have failed as footballers.

runners, boxers or whatever, but they have good habits and a certain level of athleticism. If they have that, they can learn the skills of the game in a couple of years; I believe this is an area where we should make a real push. A player like Gorden Tallis, say, is first and foremost an

outstanding athlete, who has acquired enough technical ability to be effective. Yet it is not all doom and gloom. Rugby league has many strengths in this country. The players and the fans

still have a rapport with each other which has long since been lost in other sports. That is something that has to be maintained and nurtured. Also, the training and

conditioning that rugby league players experience is streets ahead of what goes on at Premiership football clubs.

So it is not a case of us doing everything wrong. It is more a matter, as we saw again at Elland Road, of the Australians still doing it that hit better.

 Phil Clarke is a former captain of Great Britain



foday we publish the Independent Fantasy Football League. Because of this weekends international games, there are no changes to the player scores. The league table includes all scores up to November 9th.

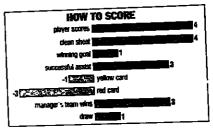
This months winner is Jessica Plews from London. With a monthly total of 120 points, Jessica has won a pair of tickets to England's next home international.

are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e.: if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a playrd they lose 3 points. Own goals, either

scored or conceded, do not count. The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they

draw and no points are given if they lose. Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in The Independent and repeated the following Sunday in the Independent on Sunday.



INDEPENDENT FANTASY OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 16 NOVEMBER

LEAGUE TABLE

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Mr Macinael Ricka
Mr Trevor Russ
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The stewards have stepped up their campaign against jockeys who look as if they are not trying hard enough, or in the case of Norman Williamson, looking the wrong way.

> When you talk glasses and stewards, the immediate clinking image is of ice floes bobbing around in crystal-contained oceans of fine brandy. The noble men in tweeds may have to be reassessed mentally, however, following the recent vigorous employment of the alternative glassware of binoculars from their eyries.

Richard Edmondson reports.

On Sunday at Ayr, the jockey Brian Storey was punished for non-trying, at a time when he could have expected his adjudicators to be squabbling over the slabs on the cheese hoard. And yesterday there were admonishments, too, for feather-duster efforts at Plumpton and Leicester.

Gardie Grissell and Barry Fenton were the naughty boys in Sussex, the trainer and jockcy team being fined and banned respectively following Buckland Lad's second placing in the handicap chase.

Gardie, it must be said, hardly held his hands up. "This is out-rageous," he said. "In 20 years of training I have never sent out a non-trier and never back any

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Deano's Beeno (Newton Abbot 3,30) NB: Nant Y Gamer (Lingfield 3.20)

of my own horses. My jockey rode a great race as the others went off too fast in this heavy ground. This is a slur upon my character and I shall appeal."

Even if you had been sturring with an empty decanter by your side at Leicester, it would have been demanding to ignore the howler committed by Norman Williamson. The jockey was comfortably clear on the run-in of the novices' chase on Herbert Lodge and, just to make sure. he peeped over his right shoulder to check for dangers. If he'd he won before Newbury, looked over his left, he would have noticed Kapco steaming up for an improbable success as he struck a statuesque pose.

Right look stuns Williamson

This is not good form at the best of times, and it is especially not good when you are riding a 4-11 shot. Herbert Lodge transported £7,000 in recorded hets alone and some of the contributors gathered to have a word with Normie on his return. They came close to forming a lynch mob. "Go back to Ireland", "go to Blackpool" and "you should be banned for six months" were the views available to a family newspaper.

One punter tried to penetrate the unsaddling enclosure to make his point and Williamson walked out to his next ride amid a cocoon of fellow jockeys. "I am very, very sorry," he said. "I made a mistake. It's been done before and it will be done again. I made a mistake and that's it - sorry to the public." Williamson's official chastening was a 14-day suspension which removes him from consideration for the Hennessy Gold Cup.

There are plenty of cups to

though, notably the hardware for the First National Bank Gold Cup at Ascot on Saturday. On a point of handicapping, the winner has already been established as Simply Dashing, whose victim at Wetherby this month, Senor El Betrutti, secured Saturday's Murphy's Gold Cup.

The bunting has yet to be dragged down from the loft at the gelding's Yorkshire yard, however. "The horse is all right and Richard Dunwoody has been booked to ride," Peter Easterby, father of trainer Tim. said. "The Wetherby race may have been false, the grey [Senor El Bernuti] may have needed it."

Simply Dashing shares top

weight with Or Royal, Martin Pipe's winner of last season's Arkle Trophy at the Festival. Another consideration is Josh Gifford's Redeemyourself. "As long as the ground is good, and we are promised some rain, then Redeemyourself will run," the trainer said. And he, like all the others, had better run wholeheartedly as the boys with the glasses will be watch-



Crossing point: With Plumpton station's railway bridge as a backdrop, Indian Run leads the field over the water jump in a handicap chase at the Sussex track yesterday but fades into fourth behind Karar

Photograph: David Ashdown

WETHERBY

HYPERION 1.10 Meltemison 2.40 DOWN THE FELL (nap) 1,40 Forest Ivory 3.10 Speaker Wetherill 2.10 The Real McCoy 3.40 Leap In The Dark

GOING: Good.

Left-hand ovel circust. Run-in of 200yds slightly uphil.

Course is NE of town on B1224 near junction of A58 and A1. ADMISSION: Cub £12 (accompanied under-16s free); Tattersalis £8; Course £2 (OAPs £1) (cars, including up to 4 adults £8). CAR PARIC: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs at Reveloy 44 winners from 172 runners gives a success ratio of £255s, B Richards 24 from 100 (24%), D Nicholson 16 from 61 (262%), T Easterby £5 from 73 (2055s).

That 73 (205%).

© LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niver 43 was from 161 roles gives a success ratio of 26.7%, A Maguire 22 from 96 (22.4%), A Dobbin 19 from 111 (173%) R Guest 17 from 61 (21%).

© FAVOURITIES: 191 was in 443 races (431%).

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| ۱ | 8 | œ- | JOLLY HEART (195) (Lady Arme Bentinck) O Brennan 7 11 0 | |
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| l | 10 | 63-3 | KIT SMARTIE (19) (D M. Forster) D M Forster 5 11 0 | Store |
| ĺ | 11 | 5252-5 | MELTENISON (9) (Lucky Seven Facing Club) M Hammond 4 11 0 | |
| 1 | 2 | ۵ | MY GODSON (8) (Linkstellance Limited) M Dods 7 11 0 | N Symbol |
| ł | 13 | 652- | REVOLT (205) (C H Stevents) T Easterby 5 11 0 | A Thomas |
| ı | 14 | 06- | SARAS DELIGHT (230) (Mrs D. Jackson) D Nicholson 5 11 0 | |
| 1 | 15 | - 5 | CENTRAL LAST F. CALL F. St. All Representation G. Perfords 5 11 D. | A Dabbii |
| ſ | 16 | 54323- | SOUTHERN CROSS (231) (D) (J H Holl) M W Esstarby 5 11 C. | |
| ì | 17 | 10. | SPERIT OF STEEL 1937 (C) 450-461 Sevent-Brount 1, 100,4 11,0 | Callagna |
| ١ | 18 | 43- | SWANDALE FLYER (F190) (Anches Compthers) N Bycrott 5 11 0 | B Gradian (f |
| ı | 19 | 06 | SYCAMORE LODGE (F10) (D.) Lavari M Pail 9 11 D | |
| ı | 20 | | TAKE NOTICE (F171) [J P Stattery] M Wans 4 TI 0 | Suppi |
| ĺ | 21 | 4 | THE BUTTERWICK KID (P12) (Robert Chambers) R Fahey 4 11 0 | F LOOKIN (2 |
| Į | 22 | | TROJAN RISK (F21) (Andy Peaks & David Jackson) Mrs M Reveley 4 | Ti (F 1694) |
| 8 | | | WHERE TOLEN MOTE (Gardens) Thomsone), I H Johnson S TI () | Mr S Dubock (7 |

derbok was not that easy to win with on the Plat, however, while it is difficult to know the best trip for Southern Cross, tried in a three-miler last season. Conditions look right for Meliterulson but he was besten a long way here nine days ago, in the nownest handloop won by Blusive Star from Cauliter.

1.40 PROFESSOR PETER ALEXANDER NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 3m 1f Penalty Value £3,600 04-Sci MAYEE CYSRADY (18) (CD) Abs Ann Bell W Curringham 8 11 5 ... N Smith 124-F FOREST NORY (10) (D BF) (Cld Foresters Parineship) D Nicholson 6 11 0 ... A Maguire 2009- JERVAULX (175) (Fisher Clotter) G Richards 6 11 0 ... R Dunwoody 11PPZ: (DANN (750) (Walloy) Mas M Rendey 9 10 ... P Niver SIPPZ 2006 GRISSEACH (12) (Blakeley Rainters Ltd) J Turrer 8 11 0 ... R Supple 4/54-2 RYE CHOSSING (7) (C H Sevens) T Enterby 7 11 0 ... R Garritty B

- 6 disclared -BETTING: 11-10 Forest Ivory, 4-1 Jervaulz, 6-1 Kidlast, 7-1 Maybe O'Grady, 8-1 Style Crossing, 12-1

FORM GUIDE

FORMST INDRY was held when faing two from home in the race won by Northern Starlight at Chepstow, but he went off issourins there and will be a short price to make amends over this more sustable trip in a much weater contest. Fourth to Istabanq et Cheltenham in March, then winner of the three-mile novice at Altrice, Forast Mory was a classy hunder compared with today's opposition. Rys Creasing's second to Chipped Out at Sedge-feld took a knock when Chipped Out was pulled up at Ayr on Sunday, while Maybe O'Grady's 24-length beating of King Gimeach does not amount to much as they were the only instens in a four-runner race. Janvaulx could well be the one to chase home Forest Nory, although his only attempt in a staying hundle test sesson resulted in him firstning a desponding seventh to Seletan at Bengor. On the plus side, Richard Durwoody rides and the Gordon Richards stable, usually one to follow in November, has had a couple of novice chasers win first time out recently. FORM GUIDE

2.10 HENDERSON INSURANCE BROKERS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 3YO 2m Penaity Value £2,819 CLASS D) E3,650 added 3YO 2m Penarry Value 22,815

5 BERNES STAR (PS) (Bernet F Reynet) N Byorth 10 2 R Suppl BROCTURE UNE (PS) (D Payforth) Ins M Reviey 10 2 P New 43 GOOD JUDGE (15) (Lorn Brown & Megan Dernit) M Hammond 10 2 A Dobbit HON BOSLORE (FS) (Salie Roong Androinis) D Barler 10 2 D Callington 6 LORG DESCORD (17) 6 Bary I Teachy 10 2 R Thomaton 8 2 THE REAL MCCOY (15) (Ms J R Remeden) Ms J Remeden 10 12 A Magain TOCOMIMA (P12) (Andy Pesies) M Hammond 10 12 R Gernitia ANDO ANAM F120; D P Shirton) M Correcto 10 7 C Callington 6 0 SILENT VALLEY (13) Riss S E Coope) Mss L Siddel 10 7 T Siddel (7) TEDDY'S BOW (FS) (Ms Ams James) M W Eastarby 10 7 P Midgley (5) 10 declared - 1

izan, 20-1 others FORMI GUIDE Many Reveley won the juvenile hundle at Market Rasen last Thursday with Sad Mad Bad, a Flat horse going hundling for the first time, so there must be a chance that BROCTUME LINE can get the better of The Real McCoy and Lond Discord. Brocking Line frictines third in a 19-runner handicap at Newcastle a month ago. Invariably well beatlan on the Plat, The Real McCoy can be expected to win a race over furdles. Having his first run First. The Real MicCoy can be expected to win a race over furtiles. Having his first run for Lynda Parnsden, he kept up too strong a galoo for all ber previous winner Eponine at Nevosatio a tortrolyti ago, a race in which Good Judge finished four lengths eway third. On that occasion, Good Judge had the benefit of his tourth to Monarch's Pursuit on the course. Russ Garnitty switches to Micky Hammond's other runner. Tickniffuns, but it is not encouraging that he was tailed off last of 12 at Musselburgh 12 days ago. Lord Discord was the Tim Easterby second string when stablemate Monarch's Pursuit edged out the Pipe-trained Amilge in a much hotter race on this course on 1 November, Fourth then was Micky Hammond's Court Tany, who made the most of an easier opening at Ayr on Saturday, and Lord Discord can be expected to figure much more prominently at this level Ayro Avlain has not achieved much so far, but neither had The Real McCoy until he went jumping. The filly is a full-sister to Ayro Anson.

Selection: BROCTUNE LINE

وسور را بر المالية S Deneck (f) - 6 declared - 6 declared - 9 Security S Deneck (f) - 9 Security Strong, 4-1 Cumbrian Challenge, 9-2 Major Bell, 6-1 Native Mission, Down The Fell

BETTING: 3-1 Calibate, 7-2 Cartainty Strong, 4-1 Cumbrian Challenge, 9-2 Major Bell, 6-1 Native Mexica, Down The Fell Property STRONG to just three races during the 1995-96 campaign and also kept her off the track until Sebruary, when she beat race-fit horses (two last-time-out winners) at Sandown. The mere should be difficult to beat again, given that she invariably runs well first time back, and we may not have seen the best of her yet as she has hed but six races over face-se. Calibrate needs to bounce back after finishing only sorth in Indian Jockey's race at Ascot, but behind him there was Down The Fell and be foreleared the topweight defied 12 stone when beating Americai under Richard Durwoody at Kempton. Down The Fell ended his novice season beating the useful Lord Dorcet at Aircree, but several casualties there included Calibrate (twourths) and the result probably fletters him. Up-and-comming ameteur, Seamus Dursck, is an intensiting of the result probably fitted to the comming ameteur. Seamus Dursck, is an intensiting chart of the for Down The Fell, however. Cambrian Challenge put his poor comeback run behind him when winning a lower-grade handcap under 22 stone here last month and his besting of in-down Thurnbs Up at Ascot in April shows he cope at this level, at least Cumbrian Challenge is over his ideal trip, whereas Major Bell has never tacked a two-mite chase before, so he will do well to make a whinning responsance, as he has done in the last two seasons. Smart as he is, Mejor Bell could find this trip on the short side even if Centainly Strong does make it at ruly run race. Athough he does not stand much racing these days, and has gone a long time without a win, Native Mission cannot be ruled out. At 10 years of age, he is not past it.

3.10 LAMBSON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 1f Penalty Value £3,443

-3 declared -BETTING: 5-4 Land Of The West, 11-8 Speaker Weatherlit, 7-2 Pints Games FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Lost year, Lord Of The West completed a Nethrick before Christmas but SPEAKER WEATHERRL inkint stop him repeating the test this time round. Speaker Weatherli may not have
faced tough opposition when winning twice in the space of five days at Newcastle, but
Lord Of The West had just three opponents in his two races at Carliste. Lord Of The West
teams up agein with Adrian Maguire, on board for last year's three wins, and he is a more
ratinal three-mis chaser than Speaker Weatherlit, whose earlier Newcastle success were
has first at this sort of trip. Front-running Speaker Weatherlit should be able to dictabe a
pace that suits him, however, and Owen Brennan's Strath Royal upper Sounds Strong at
the Sunday ferhum here.

3.40 MARSHALL CONDITIONALS' HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £2,373

Leep in. The Dark is thoroughly exposed, but he must have a chance in a race where most of the opposition looks vulnerable one way or another. SCARBA might be the answer, He may have pulled a bit too hard when tourth to Spendid (Cheltenham winner on Sunday) at Towcester. He is from an in-form yard and his nider is emitted to a helty 100 allowance. Eddie Calleghen, who won on Scarba at Newcastle last season, rides Amazing Salt, without a run this term and who ended last season with two falls. Highbank, who was having his first run in almost a year, was a remote last of seven behind Potter's Gate at Chapatow, while at the other and of the scale is Six Clerks, found warning handlarges so far. Last-flight falls twice prevented Brancher from going close to withing last season, but he was a bit disappointing in Well Appointed's race at Kelso last week after a satisfactory comeback run there behind Charity Crusader. Selection: SCARBA

RACING'S FUTURES MARKET

Mr Mulligan, who made heavy weather of heating Ask Me Later, carrying 54lb more than his true handicap weight, at Ayr on Saturday, is now 10-1 with Coral and Ladbrokes for the Gold Cup.

Ladbrokes yesterday cut Trying Again from 16-1 to 8-1 for the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury a week on Saturday after heavy support. David Gandolfo confirmed rumours that he has booked Richard Dunwoody for the horse.

Ladbrokes and William Hill make Simply Dashing favourite for Saturday's First Bank Gold Cup Handicap Chase at Ascot. He had Murphy's Gold Cup

winner Senor El Betrutti 15 lengths behind when winning at Wetherby on his reappearance. Wellierry On his reappearation.
Whiten His bet on the the First Bank Gold
Cup Handleap Chase (2m 31 110yd, Ascot, Saturday's 7-4 Smpty Destring, 9-2 Or
Royal, 6-1 Jeffell, 7-1 Fine Thyre, 6-1 Frazristand, 12-1 Anzund The Gels, 12-1 Stateby Home, 12-1 Wild West Wind, 14-1
Redeemyoursel, 20-1 Linton Rocks, 25-1
An Prince, 25-1 Greenback, 33-1 Monits Soham.

prices in bold).

prices in Dold).

Lectoroless bet on the Hermessy Gold Cup
Handicap Chase (3m 2f 110yd, Newbury,
Sphinday, 29 November): 52 extra run BarrIo, Djedden, 7-1 Barron Bank, 8-1 Coome Hi,
Eudipe, Trying Again, 10-1 Time For A Run,
12-1 Belmont King, Suny Bey, 14-1 General
Wolfe, 5-1 Celic Abbey, Barronel, Colonel in
Chiel, Go Ballistic, Harwell Lad, Indian Track-

-- (an Davies

| Horse (framer) | Const | William HB | Ladbroles | Tone |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|------|
| Shedow Leader (C Egenon) | 6-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 | 5-1 |
| istabraq (A P OBrian/hi) | 7-(| B -1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| Maine A Stand (M Pips) | 7-1 | 5-1 | 7-1 | 7-1 |
| Collier Bay (J Okt) | 1 B- 1 | 34-1 | 2-1 | 15-1 |
| 'in Supposin (A Rove) | 20-1 | 14-1 | 20-1 | 14-1 |
| Griznes (C Roche/M) | 20-1 | 16-1 | 14-1 | 16-1 |
| Joyeush (J Old) | 25-1 | 14-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| Marello (Mrs M. Reveley) | 25-1 | 20-1 | 25-1 | 14-1 |
| Sensatrtino (D Nicholson) | 16-1 | 16-1 | 20 -1 | 16-1 |
| Dato Ster (J M Jefferson) | 15-1 | 33-1 | 33-1 | 25-1 |
| Space Treatur (Mrs. J Hanington) | 33-1 | 15-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| Zemiteska (D Nicholson) | 33-1 | 33-1 | 33-1 | 25-1 |
| Thesbeworld (A P O'Bren/h) | 40-1 | 25-1 | 33-1 | 25-1 |
| Bellator (G.B Balding) | 33-1 | 33-1 | 50-1 | 33-1 |

| 1998 Cheltenhan | I GORI C | up Cnase | יטוו דג מוכן: | yus) |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Horse (Tiaker) | Comi | William HE | Lactoroles | Tota |
| Dorans Pride (M Hourigar/Irt) | B-1 | 5-1 | 6-1 | 6-1 |
| The Grey Monk (G Richards) | 8-1 | 8-1 | 7.1 | 8-1 |
| Mr Mulligen (N Chance) | 10-1 | 8-1 | 10-1 | 8-1 |
| Addington Boy (G Retards) | 16-1 | 14-1 | 16-1 | 12-1 |
| Coorse Hill (W Dennis) | 18-1 | 14-1 | 14-1 | 16-1 |
| Imperial Call (F Sutherland/N) | 74-1 | 12-1 | 16-1 | 12-1 |
| Cyborgo (M Pipe) | 76-1 | 20-1 | 16-1 | 25-1 |
| Rough Quest (T Casey) | 20-1 | 20-1 | 25-1 | 15-1 |
| Specicy Gayle (C Parker) | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 75-1 |
| Strong Promise (G Hubbard) | 16-1 | 16-1 | 20-1 | 25-1 |
| Barrio (D Nicholson) | 33-1 | 25-1 | 20-1 | 20-1 |
| Danoil (T Folloy/M) | 33-1 | 20-1 | 20-1 | 20-1 |
| Surry Bay (C Brooks) | 33-1 | 25-1 | 33-1 | 25 -1 |
| Go Ballistic (J ()'Shea) | 40-1 | 33-1 | 33-1 | 25-1 |

NEWTON ABBOT

1.00 Champleve 1.30 Lake Kariba 2.00 Brighstone 2.30 Friendly House 3.00 Shamarphil 3.30 Deano's Beeno 4.00 Muskhill GOING: Good to Soft (Soft on bends)

GOING: Good to Soft (Soft on bends).

• Left-hand, sharp, course with short run-int.
• Course is N of lown on A380. Station fm, ADMRSSION: Tattersalls ED; Course £5 Under-tie tree. CAR PARIC On rails £150, rest free.
• LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 83-347 £8.24), P Hobbe 52-166
(\$13%), P Nicholia 35-137 (£8.54), R Fried 21-225 (9.3%)
• LEADING JOCKEYS: A P fishcoy 56-172 (\$2.5%), M A Friegeraid 17-107 (\$18.74), N Williamson 14-54 (£5.9%), B Powell 14-161 (77%).
FANOURITES: 296-660 (43.5%).

BLANCRED FIRST TIME: Padre Milo (13.0), Albert The Lion (2.00)

1.00 DEVON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) \$2,925 added 2m 1f

RETTING: aurora Dinas. 2-1 Chris

1.30 WEST COUNTRY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 110yds 4541- FOURTH BI LIBE (195) (2) M Wilderon 3 to 2 ... M Measion 2 (2584: FOURTH BI LIBE (195) (2) M Wilderon 3 to 2 ... M Measion 2 (2584: FOURTH BI LIBE (195) (20) P Netrols 6 to 2 ... T J Morphy 3 to 25- MOUSE BRID (251) (CD) D Gendolo 7 to 2 ... A P NeCoy 6 5 279.12- ROBUS PRIDE (245) (CD) C Pophers 7 to 2 ... M A Fitzgerald 5 5052-9 ZABADI (14) (D) (BF) D Netrolson 5 to 2 ... R Johanna -6 declared - 5052-9 ZABADI (14) (D) (BF) D Netrolson 5 to 2 ... R Johanna -6 teclared - 5052-9 ZABADI (14) (D) (BF) D Netrolson 5 to 2 ... R Johanna -6 Teclared - 1 Lake Kuriba, 13-2 Mouse Bird, 8-1 Fourth in Lios, 10-1 Robbus Pride

2.00 WISHFUL THINKING SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) \$2,375 added 2m 1f (CLASS G) \$2,375 added 2m 1f

2544P TOUCH SIMER (13 (0) H Marrien 7 if 2... A Doubling (7)

2 00P. ALBERT THE LION (637) J Novile 5 to 2... R. Johnson V

2 BRIGHSTONE (P19) BF) M Ppo 4 to 2... A P McCoy

4 P.SEC COLUR BATTANT (FI) (40) (D) R Bater 7 to 2... V Sectiony

5 1/F-PP GRANSTOWN LAKE (4) A Barron 6 to 2... Mr O McPhall (7)

6 PPP-O HAYDOWN (19) M R Boday 5 to 2... Mr O McPhall (7)

7 0 SHSH SEA (11) B Librarity 4 to 2... ... UP P Phillips (7)

8 POS. SASSY STREET (F77) R J Houghton 4 to 2... ... G Tourney

8 POS. SASSY STREET (F77) R J Houghton 4 to 2... ... D Gallagher

8 ETTENS: 4-7 Brightsions, 7-2 Court Battant, 5-1 Touch Silver, 12-1 Sassy Street, 25-1 Granstown Lake, 19th Sea, 33-1 Citiens

2.30 SW RACING CLUB NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) \$4,075 2m 5f 110yds

3.00 CLAUDE WHITLEY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £4,950 edded 3m 2f 110yds

- 5 ductored - - 1 Dore Semoural, 5-2 Branchish Bock, 7-2 Pernoles, 9-2 Tug Di Pesce, 5-1 Shimarphili

3.30 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 6f

4.00 BOUNDERIES OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 1f COVERS PORT R Johnson Houghton 4 11 4 DARK MAURADER R Frost 4 to 4 GOOD VIEW (197) D Nicholson 5 11 4 ____ NEGELLO 9 Ainer 5 11 4 N Williamingtons (7)

O OUR WAM FLN (220) Dr D Chesney 4 11 4 P Hobby
SANDORAN M HI 4 17 4 C Webb 5

P TEMPENED STEEL (6) D Genclofo 6 11 4 G Lipton
VELLATOR A Durn 6 11 4 Sir R Wilhite (5)
WILLET WEXEN Biss V Stephens 4 11 4 Minut V Stephens
TAKETHETOPOFF A Hobbs 4 10 13 G Shealdo (7)
WHEN IT RAINS D Burden 4 10 13 D J Burden 61

- 16 decianed -BETTING: 11-8 Mushilli, 7-4 Knock Lueder, 7-1 Beely Nove, 8-1 Good View, 26-1 Airbourse Prince, Captein Biggies, Co'vers Port, 33-1 others

LINGFIELD (AW)

12.20 Colston-C 12.50 Goodbye Gatemen 1.20 Bermuda Triangle 1.50 Miss Skye 2.20 Marie Rambert 250 Absolutelystunning 3.20 Nant Y Gamer 3.50 Italian Symphony

GOING: Standard. STALLS: 1m - outside; rest - inside. GOUNG: Standard, STELLOW in sprints.

Phase AdvantAGE: Low in sprints undustring course.

Course is SE of town on 82028 Lingfield station adjoins course.

ADMISSION: Members ETJ, Family Enclosure EQ CAR PARK: Club

C3; remainder free.

© LEADING TRANSPES: G L Moore 70-542 (129%), Lord Huntingdom

© LEADING TRANSPES: G L Moore 70-542 (129%), R Hammon 45-381 (1219%),

© LEADING JOCKEYS: R Coctvaine 69-369 (17%), A Clark 58-485

© LEADING JOCKEYS: R Coctvaine 69-369 (17%), A Clark 58-485

(177%), J Quint 45-703 (55%), S Whitworth 40-283 (147%).

FAVOURITES: 757-2230 (339%). BURGERD FIRST TIME: Figawis, Repid Reliance, Lookings Burgered First Time: Figawis, Repid Reliance, Lookings Del (120), Mester Bobby (2.20), Witchfinder (3.20) (visored).

12.20 SALAMANCA HANDICAP (CLASS E) (DIV I) £4,025 edded 5f

600801 ANOKATO (12) (CD) K kery 3 To 0. ... Martin Dayer 7 B

12.50 SALAMANCA HANDICAP (CLASS E)
(DIV II) £4,025 added 5f 3002 PALACEGATE JACK (12) (0) J Berry 69 12. C Loweller (3) 5 B

5 COORD MISTER RAIDER (AB) (CD) E Wheeler 5 B TO Leavy (7) TO B
7 544250 TACHYCARDIA (67) (C) (D) R OSullivan 5 B 2 Quiton 6
8 45005 FRNARTS BAY (12) Mrs J Ceci 3 8 2 Mentile Dwyer 4 B
9 602000 RENNYHOLME (83) (D) A Muholend 5 7 To ... J. Charmock 8
10 310000 TOMMY TEMPEST (46) (CD) R Pessock 8 7 TO ... J Branchill 3
10 declared Missinum weight: 7st 10th. Two handcap weight: Tomory Tempest 7st 80:
DET TING: 3-1 Polacogate Jack, 5-1 Featherstone Lane, 11-2 Friendly Brave, Finants Bay, 13-2 Tear White, 8-1 Techycardia, 16-1 Mission Raides, Rennyholms, 14-1 others. 030460 MISTER RAIDER (48) (CD) E Wheeler 5 8 13

1.20 VITTORIA SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) 52,875 added 2YO 78 122,575 BOORED 21D /T
153 PROMIN (120) S Don 6 11 T Castra 4 E
LE GENEREUR M Citation 6 11 R Perham 12
0 LONGBOWNAN (55) Mes L Suites 6 11 S Webwork 5
66 WYSTACOGUE (17) R Harmon 8 11 Done O'Vell 7 SOBOSS MYSTAGOGUE (17) R Harmon 8 11. Dens O'Neill 7

ODD PRENCE COLEY (25) G L Moore 8 11. A Client 13

ODESS RAPED RELIANCE (8) R Hopen 8 11. A MicClant 9 B

ODESSA SLIM PRIOR (25) K Burle 8 11. D Sweeney (8) 1

GEVEN BERMAUDA TRANSCE (40) M Hopens 8 E. C London (3) 10

ON 18 BED (42) W James 8 6. A Whisian (3) 3

ON 18 BED (42) W James 8 8. J China 2

DAGO JONATHANES CHEL (5) J Bridger 8 6. S Drowne 11

SOODE MILLIA'S MAGIC (5) K hory & 8. TO SOURCE AMAIN TO MANIETO FOR IT MANY TO SOURCE 4

13 declared BETTINGS: 5-2 Report Redented, 7-2 Mystagogum, 11-2 Reported, Major's Magle, 7-1 Sido Prico, 10-1 Jonathan's Cirl, 14-1 Bernaude Triangle, 16-1 others

1.50 MALAYA GATWICK NURSERY HANDI-CAP (CLASS D) 24,550 added 2YO 1m

82300 LIFT THE OFFER RES R Harmon 9 1... 004 HIGHBURY LISENIO (131) Bob Jones 89-00500 MISS SKYE 201 T J Naugrbon 6 1 00000 LASS ANNAMA (14) F Brans 7 2 2 0000 ZADA (10) G L Moore 7 10 BETTING: 5-4 Night Vigil, 7-2 AP Felb. 4-1 Bennion, 7-1 LR Vise Ottor, 8-1 Goldfil, 12-1 Mins Stops, 16-1 Highbury Legend, 33-1 others

2.20 BUSALO MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 3YO 1m 2fR Lepola 5

0520 SEPHIA (112) D (72rian 89. - 11 dechared -BETTING: 7-4 Badoein Honda, 7-2 Boot Worry Miles, Sifva, 10-1 interest, Marie Recybert, 12-1 Febry Pergers, Mission Heights, 16-1 others

2.50 CORUNNA HANDICAP (CLASS E) 55852 STATE APPROVAL (17) (D) (BF) P Exclas 4 10 0 ### STATE APPROVAL (17) (D) (BP) P Exches 4 10 0

20312 STATE APPROVAL (17) (C) (BP) D Except 99 91 T Coloro 17 8

25534 MASTER BENELED (S) (C BF) P Exercit 99 91 T Coloro 17 8

01048 CASTLES BERNANG (12) (C) (D) C Cycer 3 8 77 Colorons 5

05035 SODEN (22) (C) T MIS 3 9 8 Local Hackett (7) 13

50800 ADMIRALS SECRET (28) (C) C Marriy 28 12 Mischel Howards 2

50330 TIME CAN TELL (82) C Marriy 28 12 Mischel Howards 2

50400 HAROLDON (14) (D) B Pains B 8 11 Local Howards 2

50400 HAROLDON (14) (D) B Pains B 8 11 T Sonale 3 \$0500 IN THE CONTROL OF THE STATE OF THE STA

3.20 LADBROKE AW HANDICAP (QUALIFI-ER) (CLASS E) (DIV I) £4,025 added 7f 60050 MAPTER STAR (12) Mar N Marsaloy 4 9 10 ... S Website 6 V

Minimum: 7st 70th. Tue weights: Mustang 7st 5th, Rocky Waters; 7st 4th. BETTING: 5-2 Nant Y Guese, 11-2 Sally Sack, Mayler Sac, 7-1 Whitepered Melody, Wildelinder, Mustang, 8-1 Tellulud, Rocky Waters, 14-1 Says-

3.50 LADBROKE AW HANDICAP (QUALIFI-ER) (CLASS E) (DIV II) \$4,025 71 15364 BARBASON (12) (CD) (SP) G L Niboro S 9 B . Candy Monto : NENS MIKE'S DOUBLE (26) (SP) Gay Kalloniny 3 9 TD 25/205 BURNACER GOLF TIME (17) (13 (0) Lord Harmington 4 8 9 5206M ITALIAN SYMPHONY (5) P Barns 39 2... A McCarthy (7) 6 V 000041 CHALUZ (4) (0) K Burle 39 71 Rest

o posses mile pers (27) (123) d'intered - 47 Il........ Révisient (7) 4 E - 8 dictared - - 15 dictared dicta

RACING RESULTS

LE)CESTER Cut de Sac 13-8 Spr. 3. Your Fellow 2.1. 13 nm. Hd, 4. (G Hubbert). Tote: 2930; 5240, 2150; 2230. DF: \$1590. CSF: \$1660. 5240, 5150, 5230 DF: \$550. CSF: \$660 Tio: \$5200. 3.50: 1. BEBCHFIELD FLYER (G Romey) 14-1: 2. El Don 3-1; 3. Navver 20-1 10 ran. 74 few Meilenan (Brh. 1%, 3%, (W Cay), Totar \$150, 5230, \$150, \$450 DF: \$2250, CSF: \$512. Thosast \$78667. This: \$3210.

Placepot: £64.60. Quadpot: £23.60. Place 6: £79.82. Place 5: £59.58. PLUMPTON

1.00: 1. LANSDOWNE (I. Cumms)

7-8 lav; 2. Fortismys 7-2; 3. Domas 3-1

7 ma, 2¹/₂, 3. (P Nichol). Tote: £220; £140,

£180. DF: £270. CSF: £554.

1.30: 1. KARAR (D O'Subum) 3-1; 2. Nichols Vertorn 5-2; 3. Joine Jack; 20-1; 5 ma.

9-4 lav Indian Run (4th), 1; 2. (R Rows). Rote: £390; £230, £200. DF: £520. CSF: £1020.

2.00: 1. ANTONIO SARELANO (L Aspell)

2-1; 2. Buckland Lad 11-4; 3. Dr Rocket,

7-2. 5 mm, 1-10 law Supermick (6sl), 6, 14.

P Mooney). Tote: £250; £250, £250. DF: £5470. CSF: £9039. NR: Friendly Knight.

2.30: 1. HANOS (A P MCCoy) 4-7 law;

2. Jul Files 14-1; 3. Mooy 7-1, 7 ran. 9, 1-4.

(M Ppe). Tote: £160; £150, £250. DF: £500.

CSF: £911.

3.00: 1. WISHING WILLIAM (1 Totes 7-2). PLUMPTON

CSP: ESTI.
3.00: 1. WISHING WILLIAM (1 Titer) 7-2.
2. Ring Corbitts 7-1; 2. Primitive Streak
16-1.6 ran. 7-4 for Rosevalley (iel). 1. dist.
(Also H. Knight). Date: \$4.00; \$2.00, \$1.80. DF;
\$13.20. CSP: \$24.00. £320. CSF: £2408. 3.30: 1. FILL THE BILL (A P McCoy) 6-5 far; 2. Infamous 5-4; 3. Just Nip 8-1 5 ran. 6, 18. (M Pipe). Tota: £150; £160, £150, DF: £250. CSF: £291. AR: Burning Flame. Placepot: 293.50. Quadpot: £45.40. Place 8: £64.54. Place 5: £46.83.

SOUTHWELL (AW) 12.10: 1, DUST (W Ryan) 9-2: 2. Logs/ Laboud Sty per minute. 115 ptr. Souther St RCA Laboud Sty per minute. 115 ptr. Souther St RCA

789, 14, 6. (Lord Huntengdon), Tota: £5.10, £150, £150, £110, DF: £6.70, CSF: £1252, Tro: CARO
1240: 1. PHARLY DANCER (A Culture)
15-1; 2. Auserill B los 6-1; 3. Whitiey Grange
Boy 11-4 law, 14 ram. 6, nk, (W Haligh) Total:
15-1480: 13-70, 12-20, 12-160, DF: 15-4520, CSF.
10344 Tricast: 1329:17, Tno: 13-960,
1-10-1. DEMOCRAY (B Duffield) 7-2; 2.
Grooms Gold 100-30; 3. Ausesome Venture 7-1, 12 ran. 3-1 law Daimnee, 3-9, (Sr
Mark Present): Title: 24-00; 17-30, 5-200

Mark Prescotti, Totat 6490; £130, £200. £300, DF: £1610, CSF: £1712, Tho: £4810. 1.40: 1. WILTON (M Tebbutt) 15-1; 2. Ethinant Evens tay; 3. Sara Moon Classic 5-1 15 ran, Nk, 2. (J Hetherton) Tota: £36-90; £20, £230 DF; £2470 CSF, £3498 2-10: 1. CLASSY CLEO (J.F Epan) 7-2

2.10:1. CLASSY CLEO (JP Egan) -2. Russian Romen 9-1; 3. Critical Air 2-1 iax 8 par. 2 hd (P Earns) Roise 200; 5:00 5:150, 5:160 DF: 5:22:0 CSF: 5:32:95. Trussi 5:80:9. 2.49: 1. PHOENIX PRINCESS (L New-ton) 4-1 iax 2. Comiche Quest 9-1; 3. Newton) 4-1 fav; 2. Corniche Oveat 9-1; 3. New-lands: Corner 6-1; 4. Songsheat 6-1 18 ran. 2, 2½. (B. McMahon). Tota: 5450: 5150: 5230. 5430. OF: 52460. CSF. 54192. Tricast

2400 DF: 22480 CSF. 24192 Treast: 22749 Tire: \$2080.
3.10: 1. BURUNDI (M Tabbum) 5-1: 2. Graduspun 4-5 (av. 3. Milenti Moon 8-1: 13 ran. 12. 14 Carolli Toler: \$730: 5240, \$120. \$2240. \$120. \$1240. \$120. \$1240. \$120. \$1240. \$120. \$1240. \$120. \$1240. \$120. \$1240. \$120. \$1240. \$120. \$1240. \$120. \$12400. \$1240. \$1240. \$1240. \$1240. \$1240. \$1240. \$1240. \$1240. \$ Jackpot: not won (pool of £10,969.72 car-hed forward to Linglied today). Piscepot: £22.70. Guadpot: £12.10. Place 8: £31.31. Place 5: £20.25.

| PENI | DENT |
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ALAN WATKINS ON

RUGBY

ners. They will have seen too No 4. much of it and certainly read too much about it. Last Satur- land scraped a draw with Aus- leading. On this occasion they

ables us to establish a world so did John Eales for Australia. He missed four of them.

seemed to be suffering at times an international place-kicker. less prominent than usual—cer. Leonard is heavier but not quite duties to use with Jacques Fouroux's short-with Jacques Fourou ranking: 1 New Zealand, 2 tralia. He missed four of them. woods (which may be defined south Africa, 3 France, 4 Aus
The English rugby correspon
as a tendency to saze into South Africa, 3 France, 4 Australia. And who are to fill the dent who wrote afterwards that distant space while forgetting. tralia. And who are to fill the dent who wrote afterwards that distant space while forgetting Nations when Ireland, Wales of the afternoon walking back-head. Perhaps it is time to put the only asking.

started their Christmas din- they had not had made England

day and Sunday witnessed not tralia through the boot of a were not George Gregan one but four internationals, all semi-concussed Mike Catt. Per- scored an excellent try for Ausinvolving countries from the haps Clive Woodward, the tralia Ben Times a good one. southern hemisphere. The only coach, should arrange for him European country not to have to take a bump before he tries only once - when Adedayo been on display was Scotland. every kick. For previously, Adebayo was pulled down just By switching channels and though he had managed four short of the base which, if he had using the video recorder it was successful penalties, Catt had been playing for Bath, he would possible to be in two places at not looked at all happy in his have crossed through sheer once, which was probably a bad execution. He missed several he

towards his native land.

England looked like scoring

other wing So also does Will Lamaison.

Catt and Matt Perry.

So does David Rees on the Jenkins and Christophe surely now deserve a chance.

credit were Kyran Bracken, it sensible, that is all.

Twickenham crowd have it in day's outing are even fewer: Nevertheless, it could take on for Catt continues to elude Garath Archer and Lawrence any trio in the world. me. As a sheer footballer, Per- Dallaglio. It may be that Tony seemed to be suffering at times an international place-kicker. less prominent than usual - cerfrom a touch of the Under
Leonard is heavier but not quite

Leonard is heavier but not quite determination. Though he ry is his only rival. But he is not Diprose and Richard Hill were

position of inside centre, and Catt but find room for Callard sons ago it consisted of Jeff retaining his place as hooker.

One of the odd things about I am not so sure. True, Engthat try-counts can be misland scraped a draw with Arm.

I am not so sure. True, Engthat try-counts can be misever, be played in his proper will take my advice to retain ies of the age. Only a few seaies of the age. Only a few seaies of the age. Only a few sea-Jason Leonard. The tallest was the modern game is that a not messed about as he was on or Grayson. It is unexciting Probyn, Brian Moore and backs able to leave the field with bold spirit of the times. I think Probyn at 5ft 10in. The heavi-The English forwards who stones. By Antipodean, or even Quite why that illiterate can take comfort from Satur- French, standards it was tiny.

departed the international scene. at this? Why not return the

I do not suppose Woodward front row is one of the mysterby dead - could be on the other by d

maican

and the second second

A Branch

One of the odd things about est was Leonard, then under 16 whether he is any good at the field but by whether he can throw the ball accurately into the line-outs. But why should a Probyn and Moore have hooker be required to be good



Pete Sampras serves his way to victory over Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the ATP Tour Championship final

Photograph: AFP

Sampras confirms his status as the master of his art

He has been described as duli – boring, even – but when it came to voting for the top man of the past 25 years, the professional tennis community decided that Pete Sampras was simply the best.

John Roberts reports.

While Luciano Pavarotti was making the draw for the ATP Tour Championship at Hannover, Pete Sampras mentioned to Greg Rusedski that he had attended a concert the previous evening. In his laid-back Californian manner, Sampras paid Pavarotti the highest compliment - "He can sing." Pavarotti no doubt considers that Sampras can play, not that the American needs a great tenor to sing his

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Association of Tennis Professionals, which in 1990 became the ATP Tour, 100 current and past players, tournament directors and members of the media voted for their top 25 players. Sampras was the No 1, just as he has been in the year-end world rankings for the past five years.

The announcement was made on the court on Sunday after 15,000 spectators and millions of television viewers had marvelled at the maestro's performance in winning the ATP Tour Championship for the fourth time. In the final Sampras outclassed Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov in every department of the game to tri-

umph 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 In the ATP ballot Sampras received 26 first-place votes and finished with 779 points, 25 points ahead of Sweden's Bjorn Borg. Two of Sampras's fiery compatriots came next, Jimmy

THE BEST IN 25 YEARS OF THE ATP

| LYC DEST I | IN CO IL | AIO OI IIIZ |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| e top 10 | | The best of the rest |
| Pete Sampras | | (in alphabetical order) |
| Bjorn Borg | 754 (17) | Andre Agassi, Arthur Ashe, Sergi |
| John McEnroe Jimmy Connors | (13) 12/ ₁ (19) 122 | Bruguera, Michael Chang, Jim |
| ivan Lendl493 (3) | | |
| Boris Becker | | |
| Sostan Edberg | 372 (I) | Ivanisevic, Thomas Muster, John |
| Rod Laver | 360 (H) | Newcombe, Yannick Noah, Manuel |
| Mats Wilander209 (0) | | Orantes, Ken Rosewall, Stan Smith. |
| (first place votes | in parentheses) | Michael Stich, Guillermo Vilas. |

McEnroe at No 4.

The other day, in conversation with McEnroe, your correspondent asked the turbulent one if he was amused to be regarded as an elder statesman nowadays in view of his rebellious career. He smiled wrily and cited the passage of time. With regard to the perception of Sampras as peerless but colourless. McEnroe pointed out that Borg was not exactly riotous.

Philippe Bouin, of the French daily sports newspaper such was their impact on men's L'Equipe, described Sampras as "an attacking Borg who does not have the devil of a McEnroe, a Connors or a Nastase". From the personality aspect, Borg, and Ivan Lendl, were ide-

3 M Chang (US)

4 J Bjorkman (Swe). 5 Y Kaleinikov (Rus)

6 G Rusedski (GB)

10 M Rice (Chile) 11 R Krajicek (Neth) 12 A Correta (Sp) 13 P Korda (Cz) 14 G Kuerten (Br)

15 G transavic (Cros.) 16 F Mantilla (Sp).....

20 C Plotine (Fr)

FINAL 1997 ATP WORLD RANKINGS

Connors at No 3 and John al counterpoints to their numbustious rivals. These days, the argument goes, there are too many straight men and not

enough comedians. If the vote for Sampras was a commendation for pure tennis, the result of the poll was not a slight on anybody. As an ATP Tour spokesman stressed: "Several of the sport's great players were nearing the end of their careers when the Open era began in 1968 and the ATP was formed in 1972. None the less,

tennis that voters gave stars such as Laver and Rosewall a great deal of support in the balloting." The year-end ATP Tour

rankings reflect the changing face of the top 10, at least in the peck-

Leading prize-money winners: 1 Samprae \$6,496,311; 2 Kafel

2508 sevic 1458.257: 11 Kreficek 1434.564: 12

2508 sevic (488297; 11 r/spicer (434584; 12 2367 Pilos (3871445; 13 T Woodbridge (Aus) 2353 1295916; 14 Bruguera (Sp) (227428; 15 2377 Correita (182507; 16 Moya (187400; 17 M Woodforde (Aus) (128527; 18 Manti-2275 la 105,563; 19 Piošne 489,701; 20 2281 Philippoussis (Aus) 904,211.

2010 143 A Richardson 312; 151 C Wilsonson 1929 255; 154 M Patchey 292; 210 D Sepstard 1809 200; 285 M Lee 129; 294 L Miligan 12:

321 M Maclagan 104; 364 J Delgado 84 401 B Cowan 70; 450 A Parmar 59

20% Other British world rankings:

3,207757; 3 Ratter 2,923,519; 4 Chang 2,541,830; 5 Muster 2,166,590; 6 Bjorkmen

1950375: 7 Kuerten 1588753: 8 Korda

ing order below the 26-year-old Sampras. Australia's Pat Rafter, who defeated Britain's Greg Rusedski in the United States Open final, is due to attend a civic reception in Brisbane tomorrow. Rafter's rise to No 2 is bound to add even greater interest to the Australian Open in Melbourne in January.

Whatever next year may bring, 1997 has marked an astonishing revival in the British men's game. Rusedski, the man with the world's fastest serve (143 mph), has been as high as No 4 and finishes at No 6 after qualifying for the ATP Tour Championship. Tim Henman, a career-high No 14 at one stage, prepares for the new

campaign as No 17. Henman, who won the Guardian Direct National Championship at Telford for a third consecutive year on Sunday, and also made time to beat Kafelnikov as a substitute in a round-robin match at Hannover, will need to be sharp at the start of the year. The 23year-old from Oxford has ranking points to defend at Doha. where he was the runner-up to Jim Courier, and as the title-

holder at Sydney. Many discussions during the ATP Tour finale at Hannover revolved around proposed changes in the structure of the sport for the year 2000. One major improvement, however, is designed to have an immediate effect on players' commitment to the most important tourna-

ments, the four Grand Slams. Mark Miles, the ATP Tour's chief executive, explained: "We thought it was time in our sport where we could say to players: 'If you're ranked high enough to get in the Grand Slams, if you're ranked high enough to be entered in our top-tier Tour events, then it is part of your responsibility. You don't send us an entry - you play automatically"."

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Young on song as 49ers make it 10 wins in a row

Steve Young threw one touchdown and ran for another as the San Francisco 49ers beat Carolina Panthers 27-19 to claim their 10th successive victory and their fifth NFC West title in the last six years.

The Panthers beat the 49ers to the division title last season. and it looked like the veteran San Francisco squad would have an uphill struggle when they opened their season with a defeat in which wide receiver Jerry Rice was injured,

Instead, the 49ers have since coasted to 10 victories, with the Panthers' five wins and six losses making them San Francisco's closest pursuers, Kansas City kept the race

tight in AFC West, courtesy of

Pete Stoyanovich's 54-yard field

goal as time ran out for the Denver Broncos. The Chiefs won 24-22, spoiling another fourth-quarter-rally by Denver quarterback John Elway, who had moved the Brancos 59 yards in six plays to set up Jason Elam's 34-vard field goal with a minute left. Kansas City's Rich Gannon answered with a 39-yard drive to set up Stoyanovich.

Storm return to form and

tention - claimed their first win

of the season, against the Su-

per Bowl champions. Cary

Blanchard's fourth field goal of

stroke of time, gave the Colts

The Minnesota Vikings fell

a 41-38 victory.

top of league The Green Bay Packers received a jolt from the Colts, as hapless Indianapolis - already eliminated from play-off con-

Manchester Storm put their recent slump behind them with an 8-3 win over Basingstoke Bison which lifted them back to the top of the Superleague table on Sunday. Storm had surrendered the top spot to Ayr Scotthe game, a 20-yarder on the rish Eagles after losing twice in the space of five days to Sheffield Steelers.

the campaign. After picking up

their first points of the season

at the ninth attempt on Thurs-

over Bracknell Bees, Randy

Smith broke the deadlock with

ICE HOCKEY

prey to Detroit 38-15 to remain Despite the continued absence of injured trio. Jeff Tomtied with Green Bay at the top linson, Brad Rubachuk and of the NFC Central at 8-3, where they were joined by Troy Neumeier, Storm were on form with period scores of 2-1. Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who routed New England 27-7. 4-0 and 2-2. Last season's champions.

The weekend saw the first FL stalemate since 1989 as Cardiff Devils, won a see-saw the Baltimore Ravens and meeting with Sheffield Steelers 4-3, with three goals in the first Philadelphia Eagles finished with a 10-10 tie. The Cleveland 10 minutes ultimately proving decisive for the Welsh side. Browns, who relocated to Baltimore last scason, were in-Newcastle Cobras are finally enjoying the winning feelvolved in the last NFL tie, 10-10 with Kansas City eight ing following a dismal start to

vears ago tomorrow. The New York Giants beat Arizona 19-10 to move further ahead at the top of the NFC East, one game ahead of Washington and Dallas, whose confrontation ended with the Cowboys winning 17-14.

SAILING: WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE

Smith and Cayard locked in Southern Ocean duel

Swedish Match is now well past the half-way mark and should win the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race by a street.

However, as Stuart Alexander reports from Fremantie, the real racing is taking place down the fleet.

A bartle royal is looming between Britain's Lawrie Smith on Silk Cut and the American Paul Cayard, who replaced him on the Swedish yacht EF Language, as the pair career at breakneck speed through the

Southern Ocean. The two were just 22 miles apart yesterday, with Smith averaging 18 knots - having put in a run of 431.5 miles in 24 hours, just three miles outside day, they scored a tense 5-4 win a world record.

Cayard, meanwhile, had survived the effects of a wave out the back half of the lifelines and stanchions on the port side." They lost one sail overboard and are now having to stow the others below, which is making conditions in the cabin extremely wet. The sail was not the only casualty, another unexpected wave having snapped a spinnaker pole.

Both boats are sailing deep to the south, but are expected to go north of the Kerguelen Islands, along with the rest of the six yachts trying to catch up with the three leading yachts on the 4,600 second leg from Cape Town to Fremantle. A quiet little cloud of anger

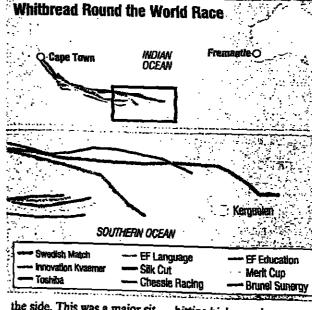
hangs over Grant Dalton in Merit Cup, dumped in eighth place by being too far north to take advantage of the weather systems. However, he has the all-woman crew of EF Education six miles ahead and with only 118 miles between fourthplaced Cayard and the last boat, Hans Bouscholte's Brunel Sunergy, there is still plenty of time to move up the fleet in the

remaining 2,500 miles. his second goal 6min 26sec , which picked up some sails into sudden-death overtime. stowed on the deck and "wiped Swedish Match has sat at the

head of the fleet for the last nine days, with skipper Gunnar Krantz still enjoying a near 300-mile lead on the secondplaced Knut Frostad on Innovation Kvaerner, and 450-plus on Paul Standbridge's thirdplaced Toshiba.

Krantz predicts that the fleet will now enjoy good wind almost all the way into Fremantie, and he should arrive a little warmer than of late following the crew's success in repairing the heater on Swedish Match. Krantz, however, is aware that there is always the possibility of a concertina effect in a high pressure zone off westem Australia which could allow the chasing pack to close up.

So far, breakages have been neither life-threatening nor costly in terms of position. Silk Cut, like EF Language, has had stanchions and lifelines damaged, and mainsail battens broken. The front of the boat disappeared into a wave at well over 25 knots," the navigator, Steve Hayles, said. "A solid wall of water swept aft. leaving the sails hanging over



the side. This was a major situation as losing the whole lot meant losing the whole race, " The crew decided not to

slow the boat and managed to wrestle the dragging sails below. "No one was rushing to slow down. We were running faster than anyone and we didn't want to give away the

miles," Hayles said. The list of damaged boats includes Kvaerner (bow), Swedish Match (broken steering wheel), Brunel (snapped rudder cable) and Chessie Racing (scuffed keel, possibly after

hitting a whale), Now that the entire fleet is

hitting high speeds, more gear breakage is expected. The shore crews already trickling into Fremantle know that they will have a lot of work to do and that their pit stopover time is likely to be cut by two or three days. Only Swedish Match is on schedule to complete the leg in 16 days. There will be little time for relaxation.

WhiteRead Round the World Race (second leg, 4,500 miles, Cape from to Premantie): Latest positions: 1 Swedish Match (Swe) & Krentz 2032 miles to finish; 2 Innovation Kwaener (Not) K Prostad 251 miles behind; 3 Toshiba (LIS) P Standbridge 488; 4 EF Language (Swe) P Caylard 830; 5 Sk Cur (98) L Smit 822; 6 Tessas Racing (US) M Fischer 686; 7 EF Education (Swe) C Calliour 25; 8 Merit Cup, (Monaco) G Dalton 731; 9 Brunel Sunergy (Nath) H Bouscholte 748.

المكذا من الملاحل

31/SPORT

Jamaican exiles dress to impress at World Cup carnival

The action was 4,500 miles away, but in an east-London suburb. jamaica's successful attempt to qualify for football's World Cup finals almost brought

ad case

ected few

.. <u>Cyr</u> 7:657)

Alister Morgan braved the sound systems and the whistles in Bethnal Green.

the roof down.

Last month I watched 100,000 Mexicans in the Azteca Stadium cheer their side to 5-0 victory against World Cup rivals El Salvador. I had never wit-

nessed such intense sporting with the kind of Sky Sports aupassion - until I joined 2,000 Jamaicans at York Hall on Sonday night.

Ten minutes into the game against Mexico on which Jamaica's World Cup qualification depended, the boisterous supporters were in good spirits jostling for position, waving tickets and sharing jokes and that was just the crowd outside straining to get in.

"I've bought my tickets 'cos tonight it's history in there," Doon said. She had brought her six year-old daughter, Lauren, with her to witness the speciacle.

The congregation's demographics contrasted sharply

dience that fill pubs across England for big football games. About 20 per cent

were women (many of whom were dressed to impress in dance hall apparel), while entire families sat together amid a sea of Jamaican flags and banners. When describing West Indians, the phrase "Carnival atmosphere" has become a cliché, but the scenes inside the hall were exactly that.

Hundreds of referee's assistants blew whistles and horns incessantly as the action unfurled over 4,000 miles away in Kingston. Every successful tackle, speculative attack and body feint had the crowd on

screaming at the giant monitor.

Most of the few Caucasians in the hall held cameras or scribbled furiously into pads.

"The English papers were having a laugh at Jamaica's expense," 30-year-old Mikey said. "They only started to report on Jamaica when Robbie Earle, Deon Burton and Paul Hall came from England.

"They're trying to suggest that if it wasn't for Jamaica's 'English' players they would never qualify, but we'd been making progress before they

rary respite from the fanfare at give way to the reggae soundhalf-time was disappointed. A

sound-system kicked in, blasttheir feet and on their chairs ing out bass-driven reggae and sparking even greater scenes of revelry and celebration.

When the game resumed, Jamaica continued to dominate their Mexican opponents who, having already won qualification, played with spirit but little imagination. When news filtered

through of El Salvador's 4-2 defeat to the United States the celebrations began 10 minutes before the final whistle. Wild scenes in Kingston's National Stadium were mirrored in the hall, and the Jamaican Anyone expecting a tempo- . commentators were forced to

In Jamaica the director cut to intermittent shots of the crowd, the players and then landscapes of the island itself. Back in Bethnal Green some cried with joy and everybody sang - the link with the Jamaican "homeland" was al-

The majority lived and worked in England - many were born on these shores. If Jamaica had not have qualified then they would have followed England's progress, but now? - no contest.

most tangible.

"I'll be glad if Jamaica are in the same group as England." Ricks said. "If the score is 0-0 after 79 minutes then you'll see some English legs trembling."

"I would love to see that." Junior agreed. "And those boys from the Premiership like Burton. I've seen him play for Derby and he wasn't that impressive. Playing for Jamaica brought out the best in him no 'Englishman' could have

done the job that he did." "It's like the Marley song "400 Years" Ricks said. "We came out of slavery just over a hundred years ago in chains and look at us now.

"It's not just a question of that round ball and 22 men. We're talking about the position of Jamaica and the efforts of the poor people. It's beyond football - in this country we live four and a half thousand miles

from home and have been suffering for 40 years. Now Jamaica have qualified all Jamaicans will be uplifted."

 Despite enlisting the help of the Sports Minister, Tony Banks, Jamaica have had their request to play England at Wembley turned down, at least for now, because the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, has oth-

er plans. The FA chief executive, Graham Kelly, said "Jamaica do not come into Glenn's immediate plans as he concentrates on France '98, but we will certainly bear them in mind for the next round of friendly matches between 1998 and

RUGBY UNION

League coach hired to help **■ Woodward**

Phil Larder, the former Great through last season after a bad Britain rugby league coach, has - run of results. switched -codes to become national development officer for rugby union.

Larder, who will initially work as a coach under Clive Woodward, the new England head coach, is expected to be confirmed in his new post on 27 November.

"Phil brings a wealth of experience with him from a code which I respect and from which we can learn," Woodward said. "Phil is a great asset and I will plook at personnel and techniques which will strengthen the team even further."

Larder was a rugby union player at Loughborough Colleges, but has been immersed in league since signing for Oldham when he had completed his education. He later became an as- serious damage to his knee as sistant to the Great Britain coach, Malcolm Reilly, before going into club coaching with Widnes and Keighley.

In 1995, Larder himself became coach of Great Britain and England, but his contract was not renewed after an unsuccessful tour of the southern hemisphere last year. He then became coach of Sheffield Eagles, but was sacked midway

A spokesman for the Rugby League said: "We wish him all the best in his new career. Phil is a very good coach and did a great deal for the game at intemational level."

Leicester launched a share issue yesterday in an attempt to raise £2.5m. The Midlands club, now a public company, plans to use the funds to build its commercial side, their spokesman. John Bick, said. Members of the club and the public can apply for shares by 6 December, he said.

The Newcastle lock Doddie Weir will not be taking any legal action against the Mpumalanga forward Marius Bosman, the man responsible for cutting short his Lions tour last summer. Weir was left with a result of Bosman's kick during the Lions' game against the South African side.

SOUTH AITICAN SIDE.

EMERGING ENGLAND (v. All Blacks, McAlphe Stadum, Mudderstield, tonight): I Mallinder (Sale): 3 Bendey (Newcastle), N. Greenstock (Wasspa), M. Allen (Northampton), T. Beka (Sale); 9 Grayson (Northampton), A. Hasley; G. Resentres (both Indestin), M. Regan (Betti), D. Garforth (Laicester), S. Shaw (Wasspa), D. Grawcock (Saracens), R. Jenkins, (Haricquina), N. Back (Laicestor, Landons, Haricquina), N. Back (Laicestor, Capt), C. Sheashy (Wasspa), Replacements: R. Buttand, K. Yazes, Both Bath), M. Wood (Wasspa), N. McCarchy, D. Sinnes, (both Gioucaster), M. Corry (Leicestor).

Dave Hadfield

CRICKET

Mushtag spins Pakistan into pole position

West Indies 151 Pakistan 14-1

Mushtaq Ahmed took five wickets for the eighth time in his Test career as Pakistan took control of the first Test against West Indies at Peshawar yes-

The Somerset leg-spinner returned figures of 5 for 35 as the tourists were bowled out for 151 on the first day. At the close Pakistan were 14 for 1.

The West Indians slumped to 29 for 4 at lunch and then 58 for 7 before their last three wickets added 93. They lost opener Stuart Williams and Shivnarine Chanderpaul in the fourth over. Paceman Shahid Nazir dismissed both men, forcing Williams to edge to keeper Moin Khan for four and bowl-

ing Chanderpaul for a duck. Worse was to come when Brian Lara played an uppish shot off Wasim Akram and was caught in the gully by fore Mushtag trapped Sherwin Campbell lbw for 15 on the Mushtag bowled Phil Simmons er (26) with a flipper and bowled debutant leg-spinner

Nottinghamshire yesterday stepped up their efforts to sign Chris Adams as the Derbyshire batsman assesses his options be-

Rawl Lewis for four.



Shivnarine Chanderpaul, the West Indian batsman, is bowled by Pakistan's Shahid Nazir on the first day of the first Test in Peshawar yesterday Photograph: Reuter

fore deciding his future next are also in the hunt and have

The 27-year-old successfully fought to be downgraded by the England and Wales Cricket Board's Registration Standing Committee to a List Two player last week to give him the Mushtag Ahmed for three be- option of being able to join anycounty.

Sussex are believed to be stroke of hunch. After the break favourites, having offered him a lucrative contract of around for one, deceived Carl Hoop- £90,000-a-year plus the cap-

> But Nottinghamshire, who are expecting to wrap up the signing of Lancashire batsman Jason Gallian later this week Strang as their overseas player, competition.

held negotiations with Adams.

Dean Jones, the former Australian Test batsman, said yesterday he was prepared to defy a strike, if one is called by the Australian Cricketers' Association, and would even captain the country.

The ACB is believed to be prepared to field a back-up Australian team if the ACA decides to call its members out for either the 4 and 9 December one-day matches against South Africa.

Jones said he would only support strike action if it was solely for better pay and conditions for players in the dohaving already secured Paul mestic Sheffield Shield

for Socceroos In Japan, the celebrations

Tehran beckons

Australia's footballers face a "logistical nightmare" in their struggle for the remaining place in the World Cup finals. A golden goal for Japan in Sunday's Asian zone play-off has left Terry Venables' team facing a demanding two-leg play-off against Iran.

Australian players, who are scattered around the globe, face a difficult journey to reach the Middle East in time for Saturday's first leg in Tehran. The second leg will be played in Melbourne a week later, with the winner to claim the last available place for the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

David Hill, the Soccer Australia chairman, said. "I couldn't think of a worse place in the world to get to at short notice. It's a logistical nightmare."

Had the team faced Japan. all the players could have taken a direct flight to Tokyo. Iran, however, has few direct flights from anywhere.

were long and earnest after their team reached the World Cup finals for the first time. Japan qualified for France '98 when they beat Iran 3-2 with a goal in sudden-death extra time by Masayuki Okano to win the Asian zone play-off in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

The game attracted the second-highest Japanese audience for a football match broadcast, with viewing figures of 47.9 percent. That record stands at the 48.1 per cent who watched when Japan lost to Iraq and missed out on USA '94.

Chile overcame the nine men of Bolivia 3-0 to qualify for their first World Cup for 15 years, edging out Peru as they claimed South America's last place for France '98. Peru. whose last appearance in the finals was also in 1982, finished level on points after beating Paraguay 1-0 in Lima, but with a goal difference of minus one compared with Chile's plus 14.

FRANCE '98: WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Cameroon, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia. ASIA Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea. CONCACAF amaica, Mexico, I Inited States.

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, England,

EUROPE

Yugoslavia. SOUTH AMERICA Argentina, Brazil (defending champions), Colombia, Paraguay, Chile,

Final place to be decided by two-leg play-off between Iran and Australia 22 (fearu) and 29 November World Cup finals draw: 4 Decemb

Italy, Netherlands, Norway,

Romania, Scotland, Spain,

SPORTING DIGEST

American football AITHEFFICAIT TOOLDAIT NFL: Bellimore 10 Philadelphia 10 (ct); Detroit: 38 Mirmacota 15; Indanapolis 11 Green Bay 38; Jacksonville 17 Tennessee 9; Kanesa Cty 24 Denver 22; New Orleans 20 Seatie 17 (ct); NY Genris: 19 Arizona 10; Pitisburgh 20 Cindimati 3; Allanta 27 St Loue 21; Tempa Bay 27 New Empland 7; NY Jets 23 Chicago 15; Dellas 17 Weshington 14: Sn Francisco 27 Caroline 19; Outline 25 Sep Vicen 19

ENGLAND SQUAD (for European Championahip campaign): J. Amabachi (Kinder Sologra, II), N. Austin (London Towers), B. Bateer (Darby Storm), R. Bateer (Menchester Giants), S. Buckmall (Izalds, Gr.), S. Chauso (Titer, Ger), A. Garcinar (Mevuigam, Ber) at Gerland (London Towers), C. Hastam (Birmingham Bulles), D. Harriman (Beaemon, Pt., R. Huggins (Anwerp, Ber), I. McChney (Sheffled Sharks), P. Spandischury (Newcastle Comets), I. Whyte (Asist, Bel).

I. Whyte (Asist, Bel).

III. Mark Harrim 88 La. Cippers 83; New Jersey. MBA: Atlente 89 La Clippers 83; New Jersey 77 Clevetand 72; Phoenic 96 Houston 94; Seat-te 119 Milwackse 99; LA Lakers 121 Visnocu-ver 95.

THIRD DIVISION

THIRD DIVISION
Barnet v Torquey (7.45)
Cambridge Und v Brighton (7.45)
Cardiff v Hull
Chester v Notis County (7.45)
Darlington v Leyton Orlect
Bester v Notis County (7.45)
Retriepool v Rochdale
Lincoln City v Dencember (7.45)
Rothertain v Sounthorps (7.45)
Rothertain v Sounthorps (7.45)

07000

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Agrenel (Ind) 750-292; 1 Williamson (Eng) bt R Williams (Eng) 342-359; R Chapmer (Eng) bt S Agrawel (Ind) 763-405; R Chapmer (Eng) bt N Fernelts (Ind) 950-265; R Foldwar (Aus) bt R Close (Eng) 430-329; D Causier (Eng) bt M Rebasi (Ind) 960-403; G Sethi (Ind) bt A Nu-mer (and) 869-431.

Boxing Robin Raid will make the second mandatory defence of his World Boxing Council super-middleweight title against South Africa's Thusane Sugar Boy Malinga at the London Arens on 19 December.

CHCKET.

SHEID (Final day of four): Adelaide-South Australa 452 for 9 dec (Jamie Siddons 84 and 180 for 6 (Daudi Fitzgerad 85);
Westiam Australa 8377 (Austri Langer 256,
Michael Hussey 134), March drawn.

TOUR MATCH (final day of four) Melbournet.
New Zeeland 22 and 172; Victoria 173 and 83
for 5. Victoria won by five wickets.

Stoke have signed Danny Tratto, an Australian winger, on a month's loan from the Italian Serie 8 dub Salemi-

Chile (C)

New Caster and meany to appeal.
WORLD CUP UPDATE
SOUTH AMERICA (Five teams quality; Bozzil
quality are holdes): Civile 3 (Berrara 24, Sates
4, Curreno 69) Bolivia 0; Peru 1 (Soto) Paraguay
0; Linguay 5 (Sensingua) 4, 22, Abres 48, 56, Agaiera 65) Equation 3 (Grazian) 2, 80, 67).

PWDLFAPIn Mexico (C) _____10 4 8 0 23 7 18 USA (C) _____10 4 5 1 17 9 17

Cables
"JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Pregier Divisions Dies Rown v Lowestoft Rown; By City
v Newmarket Town; Faltenham Jown v Bury
"Jown; Haldsad Rown v Faltenham Jown v Bury
Haton v Stownserfed Town; Sudbury Town v
Harwich & Periseston; Toines Utd v Sudbury
Wandersex Washoys v Schem Town Rengess;
Washoys v Schem Town; Washern
v Goriesion.

Son y Tiariford

DR MARKTENS LEAGUE Premier Division:
Affestone v Rotined Town; Derchaster v Camley Roun (7.45); Gleunester City v Bromagnoss;
Halespower v Burton Albion (7.45); Manaston v
Harge syrer; Tarmeorth v Gresley Romers, Midlend Division: Bedworth Utd v Hendley Utd
Baston Town V Bestern Town Belsterni v Corby Town Moor Green v Stouthridge Readdach
Utd v Stutten Cod-Seld Roun Stafford Rangers
v Sollmul Born, Southern Divisions Newport
LO-W v Weymouth Wasnicoville v Rothridge
Angels Wilney Town v Trombridge Town Yales
Town v Newport AFG.

CALOR COUNTY ANTRINA SHELD First

Angels Wishey town victorings and come of wheel of the country and the country country

tana. The Potteries club have also con-firmed their interest in taking the Bar-net striker Sean Devine on loan with a view to a permanent transfer. Dean Jones, the Barnsley reserve defender, has tested positive for am-phetamines. The 20-year-old falled a random test at the club's training ground on 27 October.

ground on 27 October.
Jahre Moreno, the Bollvian international striker, is to rejoin Middlesbrough
on a three-month loan spell from the
American club, Washington D.C.
Newcastle have been fined 4,000
Swiss francs (£170) by European football's governing body, Uefa, after an
Incident which occurred before the
lock-off of their Champions' League
tie with PSV Bindhoven on 22 October. The fine concerns a logo being
worn by a coeple of players on their
warm-up gear before the lock-off.
Newcastle are likely to appeal.
WORLD CUP UPDATE

LEADING WOMEN'S WORLD RANKINGS: LEADING WORLEN'S WOTUD RAMKINGS:
1 K Wild's (Aus.) 463.39pts; 2 A Soranslam
(Swe) 454.75; 3 L Davies (GS) 346.68; 4 K
Robbins (US) 329.34; 5 L Neumann (Swe)
229.50; 6 C Johnson (US) 226.33; 7 M McGarm (US) 12345; 8 H Afredsoon (Swe) 17561;
9 L Hackmay (GS) 18008; 10 D Pepper (US)
168.03; 25 L Westwood (GS).

Rugby Union TOUR MATCH: Bischnests v Yonge (7AS); Emerging England v New Zeeland (at Hud-dersfield, 7AS); Scotlieh Borders v ACT (at Mansfield Park, Hawick, 7D).

Basketbali

BRILLIARDS: UK Chempionship (Preston).

SCHONG: World Boding Organization Inter-Continental featherweight this: S Robinson (hold-ary v A Johnson (first) (Mansfield Leisure Centre).

CVCLING: Ghant str-day race. NOOKER: UK Chemplonship (Preston).

Bernhard Langer has been voted the European Tour's Johnnie Walter Gotter of the Month for October, A week af-ter the Ryder Cup victory at Valder-rams, Langer became only the eighth man in tour history to shoot a round of Sti and went on the big by lived.

man in tour history to shoot a round of 60 and want on to who the Linde German Massters in Berlin by six shots from Colin Montgomerie.

SHARK SHOOT-OUT (Cellifornia) Leading final score (US unless status!; 186 5 McCarron and 8 Listzice 88 58 58; 188 5 Hoch and D Duvel 68 62 58; 191 P Jacobsen and J Cook 62 67 62, 182 M Calcavectris and J Cook 62 67 62, 182 M Calcavectris and J Cook 62 67 62, 182 M Calcavectris and J Final 191 65 68 62 187 L Waddins and C Stadler, 76 68 62, 187 L Waddins and C Stadler, 76 68 62, 186 Norman (Aus) and S Eldington (Aus) 71 63 64, 199 C Beck and D Frost (SA) 71 68 62.

LEADING MEMS WORLD RANKINGS: 1 G Norman (Aus) 1200pts ave; 2 Tykode 1058: LEIGHNA MENTS WORLD FORWARDS; TO Normen (Mail 200pts nev 2 TWoods 1058; 3 E Els (SA) 869; 4 N Price (ZIM) 850; 5 C Love III 855; 5 C Montgomerie (GS) 8.7; 7 M Czalf (Alperi) 840; 8 M O'Mears 825; 9 Pilicielson 822; 10 Tuhmen 793; Selected: 15 N Faldo (GS) 646.

Hockey

EHA CUP Fitth-round draw (ties to be played on Sunday 30 November): Surfard Tigest v Reading; Seestin v Southgate; Cannock v Old Loughtoniers; Cardarbury v Hounslaw, Christoper v Hampsteed & Westminster; passion v Sourport; Old Cranleighens v Speiding; St Abses v Doncaster. ENGLAND TRABBING SQUAD (Litechall 9-10 December): & Crutchley, A Humphrey, Iti Johnson, J Pidocok, J Leets, C Mayer, S Sharpe (Carnock, il Pears, J Wyad, S Mason, Manprest Kocher (Reading), B Garraed, J Wellie (Richington), J Lee, N Thompson (Old Loughtonisms), J Helle, R Garree, Matheod Bhad, D Lucker, Elestionated, B Barree, Matheod Bhad, D Lucker, Elestionated, R Wassin, L Stermen, Il Wester, Elestionated, R Wassin, L Stermen, Ill Wester, Elestionated, R Wassin, L Stermen, Ill Wester, Elestionated, R Wassin, L Stermen, Ill Wester, Research R Stermen, R Stermen, R Wassin, R Stermen, Ill Wester, R Stermen, R Wassin, R Stermen, R Stermen, R Wassin, R Stermen, R Stermen, R Stermen, R Stermen, R Stermen, fi.D Luckes (Eas

Rugby League Simon Syabic has become the latest player to join the exodus from Oldham. The 17-year-old utility back has signed

for Salford Reds to become the fourth Oldham free agent to move to The Willows after David Bradbury, Mar-tin Crompton and Joe Faimalo all joined the Super League club. Oldham Rugby League Cuto yester-day named Mick Coates, the former Rochdale Homets and Swinton for-ward, as their essistant boss. Warrington Wolves yesterday ap-pointed Dave Swenton as their new media manager. Swenton, aged 40, replaces Stephen Cosprove who re-signed last week to return to sales marketing in industry.

Rugby Union

Dean Richards will be reunited with some former Lions colleagues when his XV play Australian state ACT Brumbles in his testimonial at Leicester on 24 November. Richards has re-ceived acceptances from the former Lions Martin Beyfield, Rory Under-wood, Robert Jones, Richard Webster, Del Young and Damien Cronin.

Table tennis LEADING NATIONAL RANKINGS: More LEADING NATIONAL RANKINGS: Ment 1 M Syed (Surrey), 2 A Cooke (Derbyshira), 3 C Prean (See of Wight), 4 A Pary (Devon), 5 B Billington (Derbyshira), 6 A Exten (Lancathira), 7 D Billing (Surrey), 8 T Young (Bertshira), 11 N Mason (Sussed, 12 M O'Driscol (Yorishira), Women: 1 L Lomes (Bedfordshira), 2 A Hott (Lancashira), 3 H Lover (Staffordshira), 4 N Destion (Derbyshira), 5 L Retiford (Essed, 8 G Schwartz (Bestshira), 7 K Owdebi (Michiesed, 8 S Mening (Horishira), 7 K Owdebi (Michiesed, 8 S Mening (Horishira), 9 T Oxole (Michiesed, 8 S Mening (Horishira), 9 K Owdebi (Michiesed, 8 S M

while, Rusedski is poised for a show-down with Tim Herman in the Honda Challenge tournament at the Royal Al-bert Hall early next month. Rusedski bert mair serry next month ruiscessit will be playing on home soil for the first time since he broke into the worlds top 10 and will face Henman, whom he re-placed as British No 1 earlier this year, in the doubles tournament on 4 De-cember. Henman partners John Lloyd, while Ruseded plays with the Australian Peter McNamara.

reac D Shepherd (Eng) and Sald Shah

Bowling: Wasim Alvam 14-5-29-1, Shahid Nazir 10-1-32-2, Azhar Mehmood 14-2-35-2, Mushtag Almad 18:3-7-35-5, Arshad Khan 4-1-14-0.

PAKISTAN - First innings

arnir Schail c Lara b Walsh

Peter Micrograma.

Andre Agassi, who is in a prolonged sump, had to endure another setback when he was beaten by Christian Vinck, of Germany; 8-2, 7-5 in the final of the Luxor USTA Challenger tour-

nament in Las Vegas. Agassi, who was ranked No 1 in the world for 50 weeks in 1995 and for two weeks early in 1996, has fallen to No 141. As a result, he has been forced to enter his home-town Challenger event, which takes place in what is virtually a public park. LLIXOR USTA MEN'S CHALLENGER SIN

TODAY'S NUMBER 1,084

> The total number of footballers to have played for England, following Saturday's caps for Rio Ferdi-

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football COCA-COLA CUP FOURTH ROUND SPALDING CHALLENGE CUP SECOND ROUND. Liverpool v Grimsby (7:45)..... Middlesbrough v Bolton (7:45). Oxford Utal v Ipswich (7:45).... Wolding v Ketharing (7.45)

THE RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Olvision:
Kingstonien v Generatend in (7.45). First Dirision: Berkhamsted Even v Wernberg Woltmotivan Town v Graya Athletic. Second
fivision: Brainner Town v Benstead Athletic,
Marlow v Windsor & Eron; Northwood v
Windsor Oron; Tooling & Mitchern v Bracknell Town. Third Division: Flackwell Fleish v
Cambarby Town. Associates Members Trophy
Second round: Leness v Horsham. Pull
Wertbers Cup Pirst round: Histin Town. V
Second round: Hendon v Carrwey Island; Aveley v Basingstole:

JIMISOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Byth
Sparigna v Ernley (7.45); Gulately v Sourymoor. First Division: Matlock Town v Lincoln
Util Worksop Town v Belper Town United First
Division Cup Flest round: Grants v Workington
Nather field v Grast Hanwood Town Wilson Al
DON MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division:
DY MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division:
DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: SECOND DIVISION SECOND DAYBION
Bournemouth v Southend (7.45) Brisiol City v Plymouth (7.45) Brundey v Melliwell (7.45) Carlisto v Chesterfield (7.45) Carlisto v Chesterfield (7.45) Gillingham v Work (7.45) Morthempton v Brantierd (7.45) Horthempton v Brantierd (7.45) Plegation w Belstol Rowers (7.45) Wytoonbo v Wischen (7.45) THIRD DAYBION

UNLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Di-vision: Surgess Hill Town v Portifisid; White-hank v Halletiam Town. SCHEWFX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Di-vision:Elmore v Bridgert. MORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Haffield Main v Liversedge rea samausi risk NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Di-vision: Buscough v Mossley, Kidsgrove Ath-letio v Meine Road; Saltord City v Prescot. Cables.

V COMBREAN. INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND AL-LIANCE: Halseowen Herriers v Barwell.

ELIROCLIP: Exide London Towers v Balgrade (Yug) (BU) CLASSIC COLA NATIONAL CUP Quarter-tinal: Psugeot Bullets Eliminghem v IIT L&E Worthing Beers (730).

Other.sports

Snooker LIVERPOOL VICTORIA UK CHAMPI-ONISHIP (Preston) Second round: A Hamiton (Eng) bt J T Shaw (Eng) 9-2, G Poning (Eng) bt J Hagins (Sco) 9-4; D O'Kane (NZ) bt B Sneddon (Sco) 9-6; G Greens (Eng) leads S Davis (Eng) 6-2.

Surmo

KYUSHJ GRAMD TOURNAMENT (Pulsontea) Minth day (of 15): Goloro (Auryo) but
Kushimaumi (wan 3, lost 6); Asanowaka (6-3)

It Klastachicki (8-6); Koranika (6-4) bt Shitshima (6-4); Bran (4-5) bt Koranyu (6-3);
Yamato (4-5) bt Manoumi (2-7); Akinoshu
(6-4) bt Molosatuzam (4-5); Firstofuli (4-5)

bt Wakanojo (2-7); Kotoinazuma (4-5) bt Molosaturi (6-4); Musoyama (7-2) bt Aoglyama
(6-4); Kotoriathid (6-4) bt Ganyu (4-5); Rotinovalos (6-6) bt Hamanoshima (2-7);
Asahiyutaka (2-7) bt Akinoshima (4-5);
Touadasanga (4-5) bt Tochlaronada (4-5);
Tomatasanga (4-5) bt Tochlaronada (4-5);
Coginistid (6-6) bt Takanonami (6-6); Ekatorid (2-7) bt Museshimaru (8-6); Chiyotaloni (6-6) bt Wakanohana (6-4); Takanohana (6-6)

Greg Rusedski will take part in the Colo-nial Classic tournament in Melbourne next January. The British No 1 has grabbed the final place in the eight-man competition, which is the traditional lead-up to the Australian Open, Mean-

GLES CHAMPIONSHIP: C Vinck (Ger) bt GLES CHAMPIONSHIP: C Vinck (Ger) bt A Agassi (US) 8-2 7-5. ADVANTA CHAMPIONSHIPS WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Villamova, Pa) Final: M Hingls (Swif) bt L Davenport (US) 7-5 8-7 7-8. Doubles Final: L Raymond (US) and R Stubbs (Aus) L Davenport (US) and J Novotna (Cz Rep) 6-3 7-5.

nand and Chris Sutton. Glenn Hoddle has used 35 players in t3 games.

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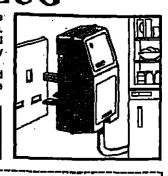
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FOOTBALL

Ferguson looks to South America for £10m deal on Salas

Manchester United have a reputation for producing homegrows talent, but they may be about to spend £10m on a Chilean striker, Marcelo Salas. Alon Nixon reports.

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, was so impressed with what he saw of Marcelo Salas at the weekend that he has told the Chilean striker's agent to proceed with the deal to bring him to Old Trafford.

Ferguson watched Salas in Chile's World Cupvictory over Bolivia. The prolific striker's agent, Pini Zahavi, was due to fly to Ar-'gentina yesterday to meet Salas's club, River Plate, in an attempt to reduce the fee from the club's £12m valuation.

United's chief executive, Martin Edwards, is standing by to fly to South America this week if a price can be agreed. Salas is also keen to talk to United and it is understood there would be no problems with his personal terms. "Italian, Spanish and German players all want to play in England I think it's the best place in the world to play." Ferguson said yesterday. "I think Salas could play

here without any problem." Liverpool are set to go to the High Court to clear the way for Brad Friedel's £2m move to Anfield. The club are angry that

l Do create embellishing

when you do this (8)

10 The odds in this place

revolutionary (6)
9 One into gin could be find-

ing means of getting lit up

would indicate a region of

12 South Hoy let could be suit-

15 House allowed to revert to

place of entertainment (5) 17 You should not look too

able as a holiday place (5,6) 1

closely at such present shore changes (9) 18 Popular brother, say, in ter-

rible surroundings is not to

19 Export the Spanish throw

be seen (9)

their work permit application for the United States goalkeeper is being held up by red tape. Roy Evans, the manager, wants to fly Friedel in for a debut against Barnsley at Anfield on Saturday, but the Department of Employment and Education are refusing to let Friedel in immediately because they are in a legal wrangle with Portsmouth over their attempt to sign the Australian goalkeeper, Zeljko

Liverpool are willing to go to the High Court themselves in the next 48 hours to get Friedel into the country in time to play at the weekend. The club intends to prove that there are players already in England who have poorer international records than Friedel

Everton have moved to kill off speculation that their chairman, Peter Johnson, is about to sell his controlling interest in the Goodison Park club. After growing rumours that he was on the brink of selling his 24,000 shares, Everton issued a brief statement on his behalf, saying: "There is no truth whatsoever in the recent speculation surrounding chairman Peter Johnson's shareholding at Everton FC."

An Everton spokesman said: I understand that he and his advisors are making strenuous efforts to obtain the source of this misinformation."

Arsène Wenger admitted to

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

20 Material for covering, say, Gloucester clerics? (11)

25 Is appropriate to suppress

26 No plus in former selection

Woman at length produces

Producing restricted time to

erable person (5) ing (4)
4 Although having crude loaf, 23 Wife left jam to the side (4)

childish floral decoration

be as good as gold? (10)

3 Be sick hearing about mis-

say, one has good ancestry (12)

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rans Road. Watford and Hollimmod Avenue. Oldham, Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370.

27 Mustn't upset a new risk-

mean painting? (4,4)

for England? (6)

by saint (6)

taker (8)

24 Element of hatred attracted

concern about his players' commercial activities yesterday after leaving Ian Wright out of the side to face Coventry in the Coca-Cola Cup tonight. Wright has not scored in his last four matchesand recently told the England coach Glenn Hoddle that he is to do less off the field.

"Ian is a little low on confidence at the moment and asked me how he could change things," Wenger said. "I encouraged him to cut down on off-the-field activities. Some players earn more off the field than they do from their jobs. The problem will have to be solved."

Faustino Asprilla's planned comeback for tonight's Coca-Cola Cup tie against Deaby is in doubt. The Newcastle striker, who has missed the last six weeks because of a groin injury, has picked up a virus.

Kevin Drinkell, the Stirling manager, is to back the Ivory Coast-born striker Landry Zahani-Oni after allegations that he made obscene gestures to Partick Thistle supporters. Police received three complaints after the First Division match at Forthbank on Saturday and the matter has been referred to Stirling officials and the Scottish Football Association. However, Drinkell intends seeking a meeting with the Scottish Players' Union chief, Tony Higgins, claiming his player was racially abused.

Cheer plus revels would be

wholly inappropriate here

Sailors were exultant (4)

11 Pompous person could be

first thus fed (7,5)
13 Coded writing in vault carries no weight (10)

14 Apt water supply brought by cold pipe to North (4-6)
16 Perhaps sauce which has no

chance of success? (4.5)

21 Have inclination to follow

(5) 22 Man could be a bit mislead-

Sheep carried by river vessel



Party time: Jamaican fans in Kingston celebrate qualification for the World Cup finals

over again in the hours before

the kick-off. The fans had

hoped that might be the

score, but in the end they set-

tled for 0-0 against Mexico. It

was enough to make Jamaica

the first English-speaking

Caribbean country to reach

the World Cup finals. (Span-

ish-speaking Cuba made it in

1938, the Dutch Antilles the

same year, and French-speak-

Only a Jamaican defeat

and a simultaneous victory by

El Salvador against the Unit-

ed States in Foxboro, Massa-

chusetts, would have spoiled

Sunday's party. But the Amer-

icans ended the central Amer-

ican side's hopes with a 4-2 win.

players yesterday were Ja-

maica's four recently recruit-

ed Englishmen, Deon Burton

Among the most ecstatic

ing Haiti in 1974).

Photograph: Reuter

Ecstatic Jamaica dance to France

Jamaica, the land of cricket, rum and Bob Mariey, have made it to football's World Cup

Phil Davison joined the party in Kingston to witness the 'Reggae Boyz' make history.

The official programme said it was a football match. But it went from Woodstock-style festival of pre-match music, peace and love to a spiritual experience with flowing tears of joy. Long before the kickoff, Jamaicans had been convinced France '98 was their

were right. When the final whistle blew and they knew they were bound for France, Jamaica's "Reggae Boyz" pushed back ecstatic fans, ordered them to be quiet and huddled in prayer along with their Brazilian manager, Rene Simoes. Minutes later, Jamaica's Prime Minister, P J Patterson, declared today a public holiday to allow the party to go on.

destiny and it turned out they

of Derby County, Wimbledon's Robbie Earle, and Paul Hall and Fitzroy Simpson, both of Portsmouth. All born in England to Jamaican parents, they had renounced the chance to play for England and taken up Jamaican citizenship in a deal aimed at strengthening the island's squad.

From the moment they stood to attention during the "One Love," went the Bob

match moments when all four shed tears, the "Fab Four," as fans have dubbed them, were clearly moved by the return to their roots and the fact that their decision appeared to

have worked out for the best. Earlier, they had been moved by the Prime Minister's announcement that all World Cup squad players would receive government land to build houses, helped by lowinterest mortgages.

Responding to a reported criticism by the Italian manager, Cesare Maldini, Hall said he could not wait to face Italy in France. "We proved we deserve to be there," he said. "And we showed we're the best-supported team in the world." Some of Simpson's Portsmouth's colleagues had laughed when he made the "reverse-immigration" trip. "Who's laughing now?"

Although Simoes used him only as a substitute, Earle was full of praise for the Brazilian. "If he said walk over that' every player would do it," he said, pointing to his hotel's swimming pool. Also visibly affected by

the atmosphere in Kingston's rickety National Stadium was

Garth Crooks, the former Tottenham striker, who had never seen anything quite like it. "My mum and dad were both from here. I'd never seen a match here. I've covered a lot of football (for the BBC, but I've never feit anything like this. The moment [Jamaican reggae star] Dennis Brown started singing at

welled up. "And just before the end, when it was clear they were going to France, I saw a young girl burst out in tears of joy. I had to turn away before I did the same myself."

the pre-match concert, l just

It was far from a great match, but the Jamaicans' Brazilian-style game will not be out of place in the finals. And in France, the team

will no doubt he looking forward to the luxury of a dug-out and an electronic scoreboard. At the National Stadium dubbed "The Office" by fans - the only thing electric on Sunday was the atmosphere.

What looks like a scoreboard is a 30-year-old concrete billboard carrying the national flag and the national anthem's closing line: "Jamaica, Land We Love." London's carnival, page 31

Footballers in the big league of earners

Football's increased profile and lucrative contracts have put many of its leading players on to British sport's earnings leaderboard.

According to the BBC Radio 5 Live Sports Yearbook 1998, published next month, 14 footballers take home more than film a year with Alan Shearer carning :3.5m.

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Ryan Giggs and Paul Ince, the next best football earners, fail to match Shearer between them, while David Beckham could eclipse them all, having earned £1.35m in his second year as a Manchester United regular. "We estimate that the aver-

age Premiership footballer earns around £350,000 a year - and that's before sponsorship deals are added on top," Pete Nichols, the Yearbook editor, said.

But football still lags behind sports such as boxing and motor racing, which provide five of the top seven. The biggest British earner was world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis.

| - Myles Hodgson |
|--|
| Britain's 1997 sporting millionaires |
| 1 Lennox Lewis (Boxing) |
| 3 Damon Hill (Motor Nacing) |
| 5 Nick Faldo (Golf) |
| 8 Colin Montgomeric (Golf) |
| Paul ince (Football) |
| B= Teddy Sheringham (Football) 44.4m |
| Scephen Hendry (Snooker) |
| IB Scan Collymore (Foodball) |
| Eddie Irvine (Mozor Racing)£1.25m 21= john Barnes (Football)£1.2m |
| Robble Fowler (Football) |
| Paul Merson (Football) |
| Andy Cole (Football |
| lan Woosnam (Golf) |

TENNIS

Wimbledon's £31 m profit

Wimbledon, the most success ful lawn tennis championship in the history of the game, produced record profits of £31m last summer, an increase of six per cent from 1996.

The 1997 championships set a new attendance record of 436,531, 51,000 up on the year before, and the performance of British players was the best for years, with Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman reaching the quarter-finals of the men's sin-

Television records were also set, with 12.9m watching Henman's match against Paul Haarhuis on "People's Sunday" and similar figures for Henman's quarter-final with Michael Stich and Rusedski's last eight match against Cedric Pioline.

As always, the entire Wimbledon profits will be handed to the Lawn Tennis Association to be reinvested into the British

Off court the sport has made huge strides with increased tournament attendances, community tennis partnerships and the comple-tion of the LTA five-year facilities plan.

- John Oakley

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Marley song played over and national anthem, to the post-Orange understand

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